History of Wayne County Schools

Iowa

Ia.

By

Anthony Blankers

Revised By

Gerald Dunsmore

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-- FORWARD --

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INTRODUCTION

This writer is primarily interested in presenting the historical development of education in Wayne County, Iowa, and he has not attempted to include events which may be of interest but have no particular connection with the subject to be treated. References will be made, of course, to the economic and social developments as they are related to the history of the schools.

The writer is not a native of Wayne County but has attempted to study rather objectively and, he hopes, without prejudice the evolution of the schools of the county. Sources of information in this investigation are reports of the County Superintendents to the State Department of Public Instruction as preserved in the public records of the Iowa Department of History and Archives in Des Moines, and similar reports and records in the County Superintendent's office at the Wayne County court house; interviews with elderly people; local newspaper files; historical pamphlets; school reports by superintendents of town schools; records of the secretaries of school boards; interviews with present school officials; a manuscript by R. B. Bracewell, prominent citizen of Wayne County, now deceased; a manuscript by Harold W. Dougherty of Allerton, Iowa; personal letters from people interested in county history; and data recorded in the office of the Department of Public Instruction in Des Moines.

The county is old enough so that few if any of the very first settlers are still living. The very nature of pioneer existence did not permit the using of much time for recording events, and the value of records seems not always to have been realized. Negligence, disasters such as fires, and lack of facilities for keeping and storing, caused many records to be lost. In spite of these handicaps the writer has attempted to give as accurate a picture of the development of education as lay within his power with the facilities at his disposal. He has visited several of the rural schools and all of the town schools at least once and several of them much oftener. All teachers, school officials, and other people who were suggested as having knowledge that was desired by the writer were interviewed personally or by correspondence.

The County Superintendent's records are complete only as far back as twenty years, while the annual reports are complete only as far back as 1886. Any reference to reports of County Superintendents prior to this date are from records preserved in the State Department of History and Archives in Des Moines.

Chapter I

WAYNE COUNTY: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Wayne is the fifth county west of the Mississippi River in the southern tier of counties. It is made up of twelve full and four fractional congressional townships. The state line cuts off two tiers of sections and a little more from the southern most four townships. The area of the county is approximately 525 square miles or about 336,000 acres.[1]

The land is well drained, and although the South Chariton is a stream of appreciable size, the county is not crossed by or bounded by any large rivers. The general surface is rolling and in some parts may even be called hilly, although there are level stretches near Humeston, Cambria, Allerton, and Seymour. Much of the land has been seriously damaged by erosion, due in part to continuous cropping and in part to the steepness of the hillsides and the rather impervious nature of the subsoil which does not readily permit rainfall to sink down into it. The initiation of an extended program of soil conservation, including contouring and returning to permanent grassland, has done much toward maintaining and improving the value of the farms.

Although much of the land was prairie, there was enough woodland to provide the early settlers with fuel and building material. Today most of the woodlands are found in the valleys along streams and rivers. For many years coal mining was quite an important industry in the eastern part of the county.

Mrs. Ruth Wilson in an article in the Corydon Times Republican states that the first coal mine was owned and operated by L. F. Thatcher in 1883. The largest mine was "The Big Jim". At one time 250 men were employed there with an output of 500 tons daily.[2]

The county contains no cities. The largest town is the county seat, Corydon, which has less than 2,000 population. For a short time it was surpassed by Seymour, but since the closing of many of the mines there, the population dwindled.

The tables on the following page will give some of the population trends of the towns and of the total population in the county.

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[1]From a description of Wayne County in A History of Wayne and Appanoose County.

[2]Ruth Wilson, "Firsts from Old Seymour", Corydon Times Republican, September 28, 1939.

Table No. 1

SHOWING POPULATIONS OF INCORPORATED TOWNS IN WAYNE COUNTY AT GIVEN PERIODS[1]

Towns	1885	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950
Allerton	791	750	950	862	954	784	775	761
Clio	92		218	178	299	229	200	162
Corydon	820	962	1477	1669	1867	1768	1872	1832
Humeston	684	720	945	1006	1214	924	903	750
Lineville	586	606	690	600	707	531	520	482
Millerton					159	162	163	140
Promise City				274	267	226	225	218
Seymour	710	1058	1703	2290	1746	1571	1537	1223

Table No. 2

POPULATION OF WAYNE COUNTY 1850-1950[2]

Year	Enumeration	Year	Enumeration
1850	340	1890	15,670
1852	794	1895	16,155
1854	1,663	1900	17,491
1856	4,183	1905	16,905
1860	6,409	1910	16,184
1865	6,327	1915	16,243
1870	11,235	1920	15,378
1875	13,978	1925	14,660
1880	16,127	1930	13,787
1885	15,494	1940	13,299
		1950	11,737

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[1] Iowa Census Reports, Fred L. Luce, 1940 Census Supervisor. Personal letter, July 5, 1940.

[2] Ibid.

The county has no parochial schools and has no colleges or institutions of higher learning beyond the high schools. At one time two academies were in operation, but they closed their doors a generation ago. Agriculture is one of the most important sources of income, but even in normal years Wayne County is not high in income from agriculture in comparison to other parts of the state.

The census figures show a steady increase in the population until 1880, then there is a decline followed by a slight increase until the crest is reached in 1900; since this time the population has declined.

Census figures for 1940 reveal that there are also fewer farms than in the year 1930 when there were 1938. The 1940 report shows only 1744 or a decrease of 194 farms in ten years.[1]

Early History

Wayne County was named in honor of the famous general, Anthony Wayne.[2] This region was not legally opened to white settlers until after the treaty of 1842 with the Sauk and the Fox Indians.[3] Four years after this treaty the boundaries of the county were defined and the original survey of the north three tiers of townships was made shortly thereafter, but it was not organized until the year 1841, being attached to Appanoose County for revenue and judicial purposes. In May of 1841 the present site of Corydon was selected as county seat. The county was first divided into four townships, later into fourteen and finally, in 1858 into sixteen. A county judge was in charge until 1861, in which year the board of supervisors was organized with one member from each township.[4] In the year 1871 the present system of three supervisors was inaugurated.[5]

The first settlement in the county is believed to have been in what was later Grand River Township in April of 1840. This section at that time was thought to be a part of Missouri, and H. B. Duncan who settled there in 1841 served later for Putnam County, Missouri, as county commissioner, probate judge, and state representative.[6]

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[1] The Corydon Times Republican, June 27, 1940, Corydon, Ia.

[2] Iowa Historical Record, Vol. 4, pp. 37, 1888, State Society.

[3] Gallagher, Ruth, The First Hundred Years--Iowa Journal of History and Politics, Number 4, October, 1933. p. 531.

[4] Co. Auditor's financial report, Seymour Herald, Dec. 10, 1931.

[5] Ibid.

[6] Ibid.

There may have been some scattered settlements in Wayne County in the forties but the first records available as to settlement are in the filing entries made in 1849. These first entries were made in the northern part of the county but later spread to adjoining townships and increased rather rapidly until most of the land was taken up by 1855. The first census taken in 1850 showed a population of 340. So fast were the gains that in two years it more than doubled, and by 1854 had grown to 1663.[1]

Wayne County is one of the counties crossed by the Mormon people in their trek to the West. Dr. Jacob Vander Zee, who describes their pilgrimage, traces the Mormon trails and shows the "Pioneer" or "Camp of Isreal Trail" as entering the county in Walnut Township and going in a northwesterly direction toward Decatur County, where the Mormons established Garden Grove in April, 1848.[2] This town remained in the hands of the Mormons until the spring of 1852. In 1846 the Mormons made a camp for some time at Locust Creek in what is now Walnut Township, but made no very permanent settlement. According to Vander Zee's map, later Mormon trails crossed the northernmost tier of townships.[3]

There seems to be no group of people who came to establish a colony in Wayne County, as the Dutch did around Pella or Orange City. Most of the newcomers seem to have been those individuals who went farther out from settlements already established.

Perhaps no better description of local pioneer conditions can be found than that of an elderly school teacher who lived in Seymour, whose father was one of the early teachers in Wayne County. He writes in 1940:

> "My father, J. H. Brooks, came to Iowa in 1856 and purchased the farm on which J. R. Donald now lives, bringing the family the following spring, requiring three months to drive from southern Ohio to Wayne County.
>
> The county at that time was a sea of prairie grass on the upland and heavy timber and brush along the streams with now and then a settler's cabin. The nearest point of supplies at that time was Keokuk, requiring five to six days to get a load for neighborhood use or for the inland merchant. Centerville, Corydon, and Lineville were the main towns of this section. Beclair, Genoa, Freedom, and Peoria were smaller places of supplies. Genoa was our main local trading point which was a flourishing little village until the Rock Island came; then the town moved to Seymour.

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[1] Co. Auditor's financial report, Seymour Herald, Dec. 10, 1931.

[2] Vander Zee, Jacob, "The Mormon Trails in Iowa", The Iowa Journal of History and Politics, Vol. 12, 1914, State Hist. Society.

[3] Ibid., pp. 8, 9.

My father taught school in the winter and farmed in the summer. At his death he was the oldest active teacher both in years and experience in schools in the state, having taught continuously for fifty-eight years.

I was born in 1863 in a log cabin on the above mentioned farm. Our log house was about 16 feet square with stove, bed, trundle bed, table, chairs, and loom with a family of six and part of the time a hired man. There were a couple of beds in the attic for the children and hired man, reached by a ladder in one corner. My mother wove all the material for our clothing from the sheep raised on the farm. Under mother's loom was my playground when in the house, as there was more room there than any other place in the house. The whir of the old spinning wheel and the whack of the loom was my program from Station H O M E, for mother worked a great deal after supper until late at night.

She washed and picked the wool until clean then carded it into rolls about the size of your finger, then spun it into yarn, then wove it into cloth or bed clothing, and we have yet some of these blankets and coverlets made more than sixty years ago.

After the Burlington Railroad reached Ottumwa, then stock could be shipped from there; but all stock had to walk to Ottumwa, and hogs that were too fat to walk were unsalable. It was not an uncommon thing in those days to see Aaron Evans, John Fox, or Dave Pollock, or William Pollock come to our place in the evening with 200 or 300 head of hogs and then turn them into our barn lot for the night. A wagon always followed the herd to pick up the hogs that got sore feet or gave out. Later the railroad pushed farther west and then shipping could be done from Melrose.

My father used horses to farm with, but most of the settlers had oxen to work with, and they were mighty good motive power to break up the tough prairie sod with. The first crop of sod corn had had to be chopped in the sod with an ax. After the first year the sod had become rotted, and then the ground could be marked out both ways and the corn dropped in the crossed squares by hand and covered with a hoe.

The first light that we had was the tallow dip, made by taking a shallow vessel, perhaps a saucer, placing some grease in it and letting one end hang over the edge, and after lighting this end it would burn until it had drawn all the grease out of the vessel. Now if any of you think that made a good light at night, try it and see.

Our lantern was made of tin punched full of holes exactly like the large graters that you see in notion stores with a candle on the inside, the light coming out through the small holes.

My mother made all of the candles that we used from tallow, first by dipping and later we were able to get moulds, making from six to twelve at one time. Kerosene later put the candles out of business.

Prairie fires in the spring of the year were quite a menace to the settlers, and it was just too bad if anyone failed to burn a strip on the outside of the rail fence around the farm before the fires came.

As for neighbors in those days, they were not mere acquaintances, but real neighbors and if one was in want all they had to do was to let it be known and supplies would be coming along. While there were lots of hardships, yet each family did their part in developing the new West."[1]

In the letter of Mr. Brooks just quoted he speaks of the town of Genoa which, with the coming of the railroad, lost its identity. This was a trend which was characteristic of that time. There are several of these so called "ghost towns" in Wayne County, once thriving hamlets, now only memories. Prominent among them are the names Warsaw, Peoria, Big Springs, Hodge, and Kniffin.[2]

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[1] The Seymour Herald, Thursday, December 10, 1931.

[2] The Annals of Iowa, Column 18, Third Series. Historical Department of Iowa Publisher (mention is made of no less than twenty-eight such towns in Wayne County)

Chapter II

A GENERAL VIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN WAYNE COUNTY, IOWA

First Schools and Early Teachers

In thinking of the history of schools one at once wants to inquire where the first school was held and who the first teachers were. One of the first teachers in Wayne County was John Rockhold who taught in the first school house in the county, located approximately one and one-fourth miles east of the present site of Lineville, and built about 1843.[1]

One of the early teachers who had quite a record for service was John Henry Brooks who, according to his son, was given the third teaching certificate to be issued in this county. Mr. Brooks thinks his father made an enviable record and gave the writer the following excerpt from an article on his father taken from the Seymour Herald:

VETERAN SCHOOL TEACHER

> "Henry Brooks, of Seymour, Wayne County, visited the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction Monday. His record is probably without a parallel in educational annals. He has been engaged in school teaching all his life, and though past eighty years old taught all through the past season. Miss Johnson, the stenographer in the superintendent's office, states that four generations of her family, including a neice, sister, mother, and grandmother have successively been pupils of Professor Brooks. This may not beat the world's record, but Superintendent Barret knows of none that can beat it."

Early Schoolhouses

Some of the early schools undoubtedly were held in homes, as for some years reports show more schools and teachers than school buildings; and a school with two teachers was rare. The early schoolhouses were located according to where the people were and not according to any definite system as is usually the case now in rural districts.[2]

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[1] James S. Whittaker (teacher in Corydon Schools in 1858) in the Corydon Times Republican, Sept. 28, 1939.

[2] J. L. Brooks, Seymour, Iowa. Personal interview, March, 1940.

The first schoolhouses were crude to say the least. Usually the benches were made of split logs with pegs driven in them for legs. Windows were few if any, and of course there were no electric lights to be used on dark days. Sometimes the windows consisted of spaces in the wall covered by oiled paper. The blackboard, if any, was a wooden affair painted black. Some schools were heated, if they ever were really warm, by fireplaces, and some used the old box wood stoves which were huge affairs into which great pieces of wood could be thrown; this of course saved cutting it into small pieces and also made the stoves hold heat for a longer time.[1]

C. A. Niday, former teacher and County Superintendent of Schools from 1890 to 1895, stated that the old schoolhouses as a rule were built quite in keeping with the dwelling houses at that time.[2]

Not relying entirely upon the memory of those still living, let us examine the record of Enos Rushton, County Superintendent of Schools in 1870-1871. He writes in part as follows:

> "In relation to the schoolhouses-----I am glad to say that our county is moving up. Quite a number of good schoolhouses have been built during the present year, and more are being built at this time. The leading feature of these houses is that they are constructed with some reference to the comfort and convenience of the teacher and pupil."[3]

The early schools, of course, provided only the minimum essentials and sometimes did not do even that. Out-buildings seem to have received little consideration by some districts. As late as 1889, ten per cent of the rural schools did not have suitable and separate out-buildings for each sex.[4]

It is quite probable that most, if not all of the first schoolhouses were built of logs, for timber was quite plentiful. Later, with the coming of the mills, frame buildings were constructed. Mrs. W. F. Berkey writing in the Corydon Times Republican, tells of a building constructed in this way. It was the first schoolhouse in Richman Township built in the spring of 1856 and known as the "Old Red Schoolhouse".

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[1] Mrs. D. W. Carlisle, Lineville, Iowa. Personal interview, May, 1940.

[2] C. A. Niday, Seymour, Iowa. Personal interview, May, 1940.

[3] Biennial report of the County Superintendent, 1870-1871.

[4] J. W. Hook, Co. Supt.'s annual reports, 1889 and 1890.

She speaks of its construction as follows:

> "The schoolhouse was made of native lumber, sawed at a mill west of Garden Grove; and as there was no native pine this side of Burlington, the ceiling was made of green cottonwood boards which in time provided good ventilation."[1]

The first records of school buildings in Wayne County are found in An Abstract of the Report of School Fund Commissioners. In 1856-1857 the total number of buildings reported is thirteen, and they are described as one of brick, five of frame, and seven of logs. In 1862-1863 the report of the County Superintendent gives the number of log structures as fourteen, brick one, and frame twenty-four. This would lead one to conclude that most of the schoolhouses constructed after 1860 were frame buildings.

Table No. 3

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS (BOTH RURAL AND TOWN) AND THEIR VALUATION[2]

Year	No. Buildings	Value Buildings & Grounds	Value Apparatus
1856-1857	13	$ ----	$ ----
1862-1863	39	10,359	10
1870-1871	76	29,585	492
1880-1881	111	60,203	1,896
1889-1890	122	75,220	3,440
1899-1900	125	86,855	3,314
1909-1910	126	182,320	5,409
1919-1920	121	1,601,685	33,885
1929-1930	114	606,725	----
1938-1939	112	604,850	
1939-1940	112	587,150	
1940-1941	112	642,550	
1941-1942	113	652,000	
1942-1943	113	667,700	
1943-1944	113	583,100	
1944-1945	110	683,500	
1945-1946	110	784,950	
1946-1947	110	784,950	
1947-1948	106	802,303	
1948-1949	107	829,253	
1949-1950	112	1,206,503	
1950-1951	110	1,267,592	
1951-1952	94	1,310,937	
1952-1953	85	1,167,470	
1953-1954	78	1,228,400	
1954-1955	58	1,394,095	
1955-1956	52	1,332,832	

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[1] Mrs. W.E. Berkey, Corydon Times Republican, Sept. 28, 1939.

[2] Annual reports of the County Superintendents.

Value of Buildings

It is hardly necessary to observe that there is a positive correlation between the number of children of school age and the number of buildings in the county; as the number of children increased, buildings increased and vice versa. Of course this correlation will be affected where districts have consolidated, and one building takes the place of several.

The value of buildings and grounds reached its first peak in 1910 to 1920 when the valuation was over $1,000,000 greater than that reported in 1910.

This trend was reversed, however, in 1940 when the valuation of buildings and grounds again started to climb.[1]

Length of School Terms

The school term varied in length according to the district and the work to be done on the farms by the older boys. There were usually two terms and sometimes three. In the rural areas there was always a winter term which began after the corn was gathered; this was usually about the first of December and was the time when the older boys attended. When field work began in the spring, the boys stayed at home and helped with planting the crops, and usually this marked the beginning of the spring term. Sometimes there was a fall term also.[2] Evidently laws passed by the Iowa General Assembly did much to lengthen the school year, for several rural schools had less than nine months of school until a law of the state in 1939 made it compulsory to have at least thirty-six weeks of school each year.[3]

The average length of the school year in 1870 was six months, in 1880 seven and one-tenth months, and in 1890 an even seven months.[4] It seems to have been quite a common practice to have the local school boards regulate the length of the term according to the conditions that existed. Such was the situation in the rural districts as late as 1907, when the County Superintendent wrote as follows:

> "We think some of our schools will not open on account of the shortage of teachers. Some districts have decided to shorten the term to six months in order to secure capable teachers. Others make their levy and get as many months of school as possible for the money."[5]

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[1] Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

[2] Frank Selby, Corydon, Ia., personal interview, Jan., 1940. James Bracewell, Allerton, Ia., personal interview, May, 1940.

[3] Session Laws. 48th General Assembly. Chapter 102, Sec. 1.

[4] Annual report of the County Superintendent

[5] M. Jane Reddick, Annual report of the County Supt., 1907.

Grading the Schools

The early schools were ungraded. The pupil merely had some idea of his standing by "what reader he was in."[1]

A boy was usually started in to work where he left off the preceding term or perhaps, at the beginning of whatever book he had. It was about the year 1880 that the movement to grade the schools began; Corydon's schools were graded the year before this date, and the high school was organized at the same time. As late as 1891, the number of ungraded schools was still 118, and there were at that time only twenty-seven rooms in graded schools.[2]

The equipment of the frontier school teacher usually consisted of a bell, a ruler, a pencil, perhaps a pen and some ink, and always a switch or some other instrument for administering corporal punishment.[3]

The School as a Community Center

The school was usually the community center. In the old Cambria School before the building was moved to town, there was a great deal of activity. Singing school was held at least once a week in the evenings. Then there were the spelling bees which were entered into with the greatest enthusiasm by young and old. Usually someone also taught penmanship an evening or two per week in the winter. Evidences of this teaching can still be seen in the flourishing style in which some of the public records were made. Then there were the basket socials and the school programs at Thanksgiving and at Christmas or Saint Valentine's Day. Usually there was a big picnic at the end of the school year where the neighborhood got together to talk and eat and play.[4]

Early Criteria of a Good Teacher

The ability to handle discipline well was one of the important criteria in the selection of a teacher. Especially was this true in the rural districts during the winter term when the older boys came to school. Usually a man was desired for the position. Some ruled by sheer physical force and were often even cruel in their punishment. The spring or summer term was not so difficult to handle, because the older boys would be working on the farm.

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[1] Mrs. D.W. Carlisle, Lineville. Personal interview, May, 1940.

[2] Annual report of the County Superintendents

[3] Mrs. D.W. Carlisle, Lineville. Personal interview, May, 1940.

[4] Geo. Rush, Cambria, Iowa. Personal interview, May, 1940.

Sometimes men quit teaching in the spring in order to do manual work or engage in farming. This left the teaching to be done by the women or sometimes young girls.[1]

The teachers in the early schools had not only to maintain descipline but had to be able to work all the problems in the arithmetic book. If a teacher could not do this, and it was found out, it was usually considered just cause for dismissal. One teacher told of by Mr. James Bracewell used to run into difficulties and then say he would work the problems later. The pupils found that he had a book with solutions to all the problems, which he kept hidden in his desk. After looking up the troublesome problems in this book, he was then able to work them. A tale bearer told the school board and the teacher was dismissed in the middle of the term and another hired in his place.[2]

Politics in the School

One retired teacher, in speaking of the character and training of some of the men he knew in the past, praised most of them. There were some, however, who might be branded as fakers and bluffers. He speaks of one man as bluffing his way into some of the better school systems, and yet his training was about the equivalent of a second grade pupil of the present day, and his intelligence was none too high. He tells of this man's boasting that he was able to conduct three classes at once, yet the truth was that he would usually "hear" the history class while the arithmetic class put their problems on the blackboard. The boys at the board fooled him by putting on a few figures and then writing down the answers which they slyly copied out of the back of the book when the teacher was not looking. Coming along later the teacher looked only at the answers, gave his approval, and told the boys to work the next problem. One girl in the history class, in which the text was to be committed to memory, droned out the same paragraph for two weeks before being detected.[3]

This incident probably illustrates, too, that advancement in teaching does not necessarily come to those who are most deserving. There were times when politics and lack of appreciation worked against the advancement of the schools, as well as times when the spirit of progress by the citizenry caused the schools to advance rapidly.

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[1] James Bracewell, Allerton. Personal interview, May, 1940.

Annual report of County Superintendent of Schools, David Kirk, December 1, 1865.

[2] James Bracewell, Allerton. Personal interview, May, 1940.

[3] John Stamps. Personal interview, May, 1940.

An example of the retardation of progress is recorded by R. B. Bracewell as follows:

"Illustrative of the lack of public appreciation for educational ability in school life, I take the liberty to narrate a semi-political incident in the seventies.

. . . . . .

Superintendents are now elected by the presidents of the local schools, but in those days nominations were made a political affair, and the incumbent was elected in the November election.[1] Mrs. E. A. King was a New England woman and far above the public as a scholar and an educator. She was a widow striving to support and educate a family, and her friends asked that she be given the Republican nomination for Superintendent of Schools. Her opponent in the convention did not have an eighth grade education, but he had been a soldier in the Civil War. A local politician made a ringing speech telling about the "glorious war record," and the ex-soldier was nominated.

Mrs. King would have raised the standard of the schools, but this did not count. In ability the man who took the office was an educational zero.

Shortly after, both political parties nominated a Civil War veteran, neither of whom could grade a teacher's examination papers.

I have seen the teachers of the county when assembled at the schoolhouse at Corydon, laugh and ridicule the ignorance of a County Superintendent.

Another County Superintendent of Schools was an ex-editor who had no experience as a teacher. He took a fee of $1.00 from each would-be teacher who wished a certificate. This was customary, and as this fee would go to the superintendent, all applicants passed the examination."[2]

It is obvious that conditions as described by Mr. Bracewell did much to retard the real progress of the schools, for the incompetent were not kept out, nor the better teachers rewarded. Of course we must not assume that all the County Superintendents acted as the one described by Bracewell.

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[1]The system has since been changed. County Superintendents are now elected and employed by a County Board of Education which is elected by the people.

[2]R. B. Bracewell. Unpublished manuscript, 1935.

Enos Rushton in his report of 1870-1871 states:

> "During the year just past, I have issued but very few first-grade certificates, as this report will show. I pursued this course in order to stimulate teachers to improvement. I have met with a great deal of opposition in pursuing this course; but it had the desired effect, and good energetic teachers, throughout the county, sanction my action."[1]

Training of Teachers

To become certified to teach in the early school, one need not have had any stated amount of formal training in an institution of learning. If one were able to successfully pass the tests given by the County Superintendent, that was all that was required as far as training was concerned. Of course there were the usual requisites of character which we have today. To provide training for the teachers, normal institutes were held for many years. Not all the teachers attended, nor need they attend. Three successive years of attendance made one a graduate of the institutes.[2] These institutes were held in Wayne County as early as 1873. W. C. McColm in his report of that date writes of them as follows:

> "During August and September we had a term of normal school, being the second during my term of office and which was productive of much good. The attendance was about seventy, which I think was large considering the number of schools in our county. It was beneficial to the teachers; first, as a practical drill in the branches taught in the schools; second, in the drill in theory and practice of teaching."[3]

When C. A. Niday became County Superintendent of Schools, he reduced the time of the institute from four weeks to two in order to encourage attendance.[4]

Later the institutes were held for only two days in the fall and were no more considered as special training courses designed to serve as a substitute for normal school instruction.

The length of time these institutes were held each year is found in the annual reports of the County Superintendents. In August, 1883, institute was held for a period of three weeks; ten years later it lasted two weeks; in 1903 the length was still two weeks; in 1913 it was held for six days, and by 1922 the time was reduced to two days.

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[1] Annual report of County Superintendent, 1870-1871.

[2] C. A. Niday, Seymour, Iowa. Personal interview, May, 1940.

[3] W.C. McColm, Co. Supt., Report to State Dept., 1873.

[4] Op. cit.

The academies at Seymour and especially the one at Humeston helped in the training of teachers, but they were short lived. Although Allerton, as early as 1876, offered some training beyond the eighth grade which was a benefit to those who wanted to teach, normal training high schools were not established in Iowa until 1911. Allerton High School in 1913 started the first normal training department in the county. Later departments were established at Corydon and Seymour.[1]

In 1917 Iowa State Teachers College at Cedar Falls started its branch summer schools. Irving H. Hart, Director of Extension service, in a letter to the writer, makes the following statement concerning training offered by the branch summer schools:

> "The first branch summer school held in the vicinity of Wayne County was in 1920 at Centerville. From 1920 to 1930, ten branch summer schools were held in southern Iowa. The locations of these branch schools and the number of students in attendance from Wayne County were as follows:
>
> | | | |
> |---|---|---|
> | 1920 | Centerville | 21 |
> | 1921 | Albia | 15 |
> | 1922 | Chariton | 50 |
> | 1923 | Centerville | 32 |
> | 1924 | Osceola | 28 |
> | 1925 | Corydon | 128 |
> | 1926 | Bloomfield | 15 |
> | 1927 | Albia | 13 |
> | 1928 | Chariton | 25 |
> | 1930 | Centerville | 17 |
>
> In general, it may be said that the number of students from Wayne County attending branch summer schools were equal to or in excess of the number attending from any other county in that section of the state except the county in which the branch school was held.
>
> The Bureau of Extension Service was charged with the responsibility for the organization and supervision of the branch summer schools throughout the period of their continuance."[2]

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[1] Eva Burnet, Principal of Allerton High School, information given to Charles N. Elmore, County Superintendent, June, 1940. Jessie Hinkle in Corydon Public School Report, 1925-1935.

[2] Irving H. Hart, Iowa State Teachers College. Personal letter, June, 1940.

Certification of Teachers

Table No. 4 gives the report of the County Superintendent in regard to the issuance of teachers certificates in Wayne County at ten year periods, beginning with 1883 and continuing to 1923. The total number of certificates issued in 1883, 1893, 1903, 1919, and 1923 was 241, 264, 274, 169, and 119 respectively. This shows the larger numbers of certificates to have been issued up to 1903 and then a decided drop ten years later and still more of a drop at the end of the next decade. Although not much of a factor, the decrease is coincident with a reduction of the number of teachers employed at this time.

It will be noted that very few of the early teachers had state certificates. Those who had them were usually the heads of the town schools. The annual reports of the County Superintendent list no state certificates until 1887, when one appears. The number had grown to seven by 1895, and the same number is recorded in 1906. There were sixteen in 1911, nineteen in 1915, and forty-eight in 1923. Because of a change in making annual reports and changes in the form of the certificates themselves, this information is not recorded in recent years.

Table No. 4

SHOWING CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS BY THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT DURING DIFFERENT PERIODS[1]

	1883		1893		1903		1913		1923	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
No. 1st grade granted	24	37	36	46	10	13	2	4	27	92
No. 2nd grade granted	23	65	50	132	20	110	2	69	--	--
No. 3rd grade granted	18	47	--	--	13	108	13	55	--	--
Total number granted	75	166	86	178	43	231	21	148	27	92
Total granted both male and female	241		264		274		169		119	
No. rejected	2	15	5	30	1	11	1	26	7	2
No. State Certificates held in county	0	0	2	0	3	1	7	14	14	34

[1] Annual reports of the County Superintendent.

Table No. 5

THE NUMBER OF THE TEACHERS EMPLOYED IN WAYNE COUNTY

1852-1956

Year	Male	Female	Total
1852-1853	2	2	4
1856-1857	15	14	29
1862-1863	49	27	76
1870-1871	71	70	141
1880-1881	87	154	241
1890-1891	83	184	267
1899-1900	82	191	273
1909-1910	30	189	219
1919-1920	22	189	211
1929-1930	32	167	199
1938-1939	46	147	193
1939-1940	53	140	193
1940-1941	56	142	198
1941-1942	50	144	194
1942-1943	28	157	185
1943-1944	21	156	177
1944-1945	19	150	169
1945-1946	24	145	169
1946-1947	35	134	169
1947-1948	36	133	169
1948-1949	38	123	161
1949-1950	44	110	154
1950-1951	44	105	149
1951-1952	46	97	143
1952-1953	42	97	139
1953-1954	41	98	139
1954-1955	42	95	137
1955-1956	42	92	134

[1]Annual reports of the County Superintendent

Table No. 6

PERSONS BETWEEN AGES OF FIVE AND TWENTY-ONE IN WAYNE COUNTY 1852-1956[1]

Year	Males	Females	Total
1852-1853	---	---	389
1856-1857	---	---	1,738
1862-1863	1,379	1,280	2,659
1870-1871	---	---	---
1880-1881	3,258	3,088	6,346
1889-1890	2,851	2,801	5,652
1899-1900	2,939	2,970	5,909
1909-1910	2,576	2,610	5,186
1919-1920	2,412	2,173	4,585
1929-1930	2,167	2,017	4,184
1938-1939	1,843	1,762	3,605
1939-1940	1,813	1,725	3,538
1941-1942	1,673	1,551	3,224
1943-1944	1,577	1,456	3,033
1945-1946	1,558	1,450	3,008
1947-1948	1,600	1,437	3,037
1949-1950	1,519	1,352	2,871
1951-1952	1,402	1,259	2,661
1953-1954	1,368	1,251	2,619
1955-1956	1,296	1,194	2,490

Salaries

The writer was surprised to see in the annual report of the County Superintendent for 1907 that there was an acute shortage of teachers for the rural schools of the county. There may have been several contributing factors, but certainly one of the main reasons was the low salaries offered to the rural teachers at that time. This fact is evident from an article in The Humeston New Era of Wednesday, March 27, 1907, which reads as follows:

TEACHERS' WAGES

"Daily the question of teachers' wages grows more pressing. Other lines of work have advanced wages and yet the country teachers are asked to continue at the old scale. This would not be so bad if young people could go from the high school to the teacher's desk and draw the wages now offered; but the examinations have become so rigid that a high school graduate must put in at least a year at the State Normal, or attend a term at some so called preparatory school to cram the pupil on questions which will come up in examinations, and which are of but little practical value to the scholar. There are three alternatives: raise wages, ease up on examinations, or close up about half of the country schools.

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[1] Annual reports of the County Superintendent

The girl who has a position with a good family is better off than the country teacher in a financial way, and is relieved from all worry and blame about the doings of a dozen unruly children."

A study of the salaries of teachers in the county, rural and city given together, shows that in 1900 the salary range for men was from $18 to $90 and for women $20 to $48. Ten years later it was $33.61 to $125 for men and $33.61 to $55 for women. After another ten years, in 1920, the salary for men ranged from $75 to $166.25 and for women from $65 to $104.44. Now if one takes an average of these salaries, the wage scale does not appear so low, but it gives a somewhat distorted view of what most of the teachers were actually receiving. In the year 1910, the average salary for men and women was $63.72 and $40.90 respectively. Some of the higher paid teachers in the towns bring the average up. If it were possible to quote the medium salary, this would be more indicative of the wages received. It is probable that most of the rural teachers did not receive wages far above the minimum figures quoted, and it is almost a certainty that the lowest wages quoted were paid to rural and not to the town teachers.[1]

From the quotation from the report of M. Jane Reddick on the shortage of teachers, one can read between the lines the attitude of a large number of school boards in the county regarding the salary of the teachers; namely, that the services of teachers are to be purchased, somewhat like a commodity, and for the lowest price possible. To substantiate this, the writer presents a sentence from a secretary's record book.

"On motion resolved to receive bids for teaching the three lower departments for the school till July 1, 1880."[2]

Some of the early salaries were undoubtedly supplemented by board and lodging in the homes of the patrons. Some of the school administrators in later years received a certain salary plus all or a part of the outside tuition. This was the condition under which John S. Stamps was employed as superintendent in Promise City from 1896 to 1899. He was paid $480 per year and all outside tuition. G. W. Sampson in Corydon was paid in a similar way.[3]

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[1]Annual reports of the County Superintendent.

[2]Minutes of the secretary of the school board of the Corydon Public Schools. Meeting May 24, 1880.

[3]John S. Stamps. Personal interview, May, 1940, Seymour, Iowa. Records of the Board of Education, Corydon, Iowa.

In the Corydon Schools in 1940 the superintendent received more than three times as much salary as the lowest paid full time teachers. In the year 1884 a similar condition existed. The records of the secretary of the school board read as follows:

"Motion carried that we pay the principal $90 per month.
Motion carried that we pay the grammar teacher $40 per mo.
Motion carried that we pay the intermediate teacher $35 per month.
Motion carried that we pay the primary teacher $30 per mo."[1]

The writer wishes to point out, not that the administrator was overpaid, but that the elementary teacher was not paid enough.

War and the Schools

During the time the United States was engaged in the World War of 1914 to 1918, several young men left high school in the different towns to join the army. Campaigns to raise money were many. The schools were, as might be expected, very patriotic. As indicative of what was going on in the schools at that period, an article from the Corydon Times Republican of Thursday, January 30, 1919, is submitted:

A PATRIOTIC SCHOOL

"In these days of the Great War we have been urged to show our patriotism by loaning our money to Uncle Sam to buy Thrift and War stamps. This they have been doing splendidly. We wish to commend all for their efforts but especially so Sub-District No. 5, Grand River Township. This is a school of 19 pupils enrolled with an average daily attendance of 12. The teacher receives less than $60 a month. By her leadership and example the pupils have purchased war stamps to the amount of $100 and have invested $200 in Liberty Loan bonds. Thus making a total investment of $300 for this rural school. All honor to Madonna Jordan and her pupils."

Libraries

The development of libraries in the county was a slow process. In 1870-1871 the number of volumes in the libraries of all the schools in the county was reported as being only two. Ten years later the number reported had increased to seventy-one and by 1890 the number was 924.[2]

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[1] Op. cit., May 23, 1884.

[2] Annual report of the County Superintendent of Schools.

The increase was more rapid after 1900 as will be shown by the accompanying table. The form of reports changed during the years so that the number of books was not reported after 1930.

Table No. 7

NUMBER OF BOOKS IN SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN WAYNE COUNTY AT STATED PERIODS

Year	Total Number of Books in School Libraries
1870	2
1880	71
1890	924
1900	1,214
1910	8,865
1920	13,701
1930	no report

In the year 1886, the following schools reported books in their libraries as follows: Allerton 175, Corydon 25, Humeston 105, Seymour 64. The amounts spent by the various town schools show that these expenditures were not large. The total sum for the eight town schools and the two consolidated schools amounted to only $282.41. Here are the sums listed in the annual report of the County Superintendent for 1939 as paid for library books and their transportation.

Seymour	$58.71	Promise City	$16.91
Allerton	48.56	Lineville	15.29
Humeston	46.24	Sewal	14.74
Corydon	39.85	Clio	10.60
Cambria	31.51	Millerton	---

There is a great need for the improvement of the public library facilities of the county. Only four of the towns have public libraries. These will be briefly described at this point.

Corydon's public library is housed in a beautiful little building which cost $12,000, about $2,000 of which was raised by public subscription, the rest being a gift of the Carnegie Library Fund. The new library was dedicated June 20, 1919.[1] It has a variety of reading material and is a great aid to education in Corydon. It might be even more valuable if enough tax were levied for it so that a larger number of new books could be purchased, and so that it could be kept open longer.

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[1] Corydon Times Republican, June 19, 1919.

The Humeston library was started about 1919 by the energetic work of the Women's Civic Club during the presidency of Mrs. Clara McKinley. The library is located on the north side of the street in the midst of the business district of the town. It is open only during the afternoon hours of week days. Although it is in need of more financial support, little interest in its improvement seems to be shown by the citizens at the present time.[1]

Allerton has a library located above the town hall. Although the town gives very little support to the library, the money allowed for books is made to go a long way.[2] As in Corydon and Humeston, library hours are short.

In 1890 members of the Shakespeare Club and of the Chautauqua Reading Circle in Seymour formed a library which operated successfully for a number of years. When the library was discontinued, the books were given to the public school.[3] In the spring of 1938 the Seymour Civics Club decided to start a new library, and the project is now well under way, as the library already has an appreciable number of good books.[4]

Practical Subjects

Vocational subjects such as bookkeeping and typewriting were slow in finding their way into the schools of the county. The academies were among the first to give emphasis to the practical. Mr. Bracewell points out that the early high school courses were not practical for a large number of students when he writes as follows:

> "In giving a history of our schools, I have to admit that in my day the larger part of our course of study was not practical.
>
> If the graduate planned to enter business, his Latin vocabulary and his Greek Mythology did not enable him to earn a dollar.
>
> If in subsequent life he became an attorney, a journalist, or a medical practitioner, or a civil engineer, then his work was of some value, provided he continued to be a student.

---

[1] Mrs. Clara McKinley, Humeston. Personal interview, May, 1940.

[2] Some recent improvements have been made in the Allerton library that have made it much more serviceable than in previous years.

[3] Seymour Herald, Thursday, December 10, 1931.

[4] Effie M. Buss and Genavene Biser. Personal interviews. Iowa City, Iowa, June, 1940.

While commenting on the impractical nature of our training, I would add that when we toiled through algebra, geometry, and trigonometry, we were only solving puzzles. We had no knowledge that these were the basis for engineering or architecture, or that mathematics is the basis of the study of heat, light, electricity, and the whole theory of physical science."[1]

Bookkeeping is known to have been taught in Allerton[2] as early as 1889 as some of the commercial courses least expensive to teach were first put in the curriculum. The response to the demand for the more practical is seen in the annual of the Humeston Public Schools for 1912-1913, an exerpt from which reads as follows:

"However, we permit any student to graduate with but two years of Latin, and offer to him two years' work in other studies of great value. These studies are bookkeeping and commercial law, commercial geography, and agriculture.

We have fitted up a room with suitable desks for the bookkeeping work, and shall have actual business practice, with a banker, school money, commercial papers of all kinds used in actual business, and the books kept by accountants in retail and wholesale business."[3]

Under date of September 4, 1919, the Corydon Superintendent of Schools, Lee E. Easter, made the following statement in the Corydon Times Republican.

"The Corydon School this year offers a complete commercial course. Commercial law, commercial arithmetic, business English, and many other essential high school subjects. Those who have never attended high school and are interested in taking work in shorthand and typing and at the same time do the work of an office, should see the superintendent about the possibility of part time work."

The next week in commenting on the schools, the superintendent made the following statement:

"As it has been found necessary to offer more practical subjects, the commercial course has been introduced."[4]

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[1] R. B. Bracewell. Unpublished manuscript, 1935, Corydon, Ia.

[2] Harold W. Dougherty, Allerton. Unpublished manuscript.

[3] Humeston Public Schools, Annual for 1912-1913, pp. 15.

[4] The Corydon Times Republican, September 11, 1919.

Other schools followed. Allerton put in a commercial course in September, 1925. Today every high school in the county offers some commercial courses.

Foreign Language

When the high school at Corydon was started in 1879, both German and Latin were taught. In Allerton and Lineville Latin was taught as early as 1883. Corydon lists the teaching of French, Latin, and German for the years 1893, 1894, and 1895. In 1899, Latin was the only foreign language taught in the county, but Latin and German were taught again in both Corydon and Allerton in 1902.[1] Thus it appears that German began to be offered rather intermittently during this period. The reasons for a curriculum rather heavy with foreign language requirements was first that tradition dictated it; second that the colleges and the universities were demanding such training as entrance requirements; and the third, that the schools were poor in equipment for teaching the sciences and teachers were hard to get, few being trained then in these subjects.[2]

As late as 1912 the authorities of Humeston Schools made the following statement which seems to have been quite representative of the attitude in the county toward the teaching of Latin at that time:

> "We strongly urge those who wish the best preparation possible to take full four years of Latin. Latin is of great value to all professional men and is the basis upon which much we call English is built. No one knows his own language well until he knows a foreign language."[3]

The Humeston School at this time still offered four years of Latin, but required only two years of it in order to be graduated.[4]

It is interesting to note that because of the war, Corydon High School in common with several other schools in the state, offered French in the 1918-1919 school year.[5]

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[1]Annual reports of the County Superintendent.

[2]R. B. Bracewell. Unpublished manuscript. Corydon, Ia., 1935.

[3]Humeston Public Schools, Humeston, Iowa. Annual for 1912-1913, pp. 11.

[4]Ibid, pp. 11.

[5]R. B. Bracewell. Unpublished manuscript. Corydon, Ia., 1935.

English and Speech

In the development of these subjects, came the problem of relating the rules of grammar to correct speech or to written composition. For some time there seems to have been a failure on the part of some teachers to realize that being able to correctly diagram a sentence or identify the parts of speech represented in it, did not necessarily mean the same as being able to construct a good sentence. Grammar, with the diagraming of sentences and the recognition of the parts of speech, is still taught in most of the high schools. Now there is a serious attempt to relate this teaching to the construction of sentences by the pupils themselves in the writing of themes, letters, and other compositions. But such seems not to have been the case when Mr. Bracewell attended school from 1872 to 1884, or he would not have made the following indictment of the teaching of grammar and English.

> "In those early days the study of grammar was a farce. We committed to memory definitions which we did not comprehend. We were taught to diagram sentences on a blackboard. Possibly we were taught the parts of irregular verbs.
>
> But no teacher prior to our entry into the high school drilled us on a correct use of English, or established in our minds the relation between grammar and correct speech. Few teachers in our grades or county schools knew the correct use of English.
>
> As I look back after fifty years, I now recognize that our education in English, grammar, and composition was analytical, but not constructive. Teachers did not attempt to correct the grammatical errors which children acquired at their homes or on the streets."[1]

Declamatory work had a prominent place in the schools for nearly two decades beginning about 1910 or 1912, but at present it has almost entirely disappeared, having given way to oral English, speech, and dramatic production.

The town schools in the county now have facilities for play production.

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[1]R. B. Bracewell. Unpublished manuscript. Corydon, Ia., 1935.

Science

The rudiments of science were first taught without the aid of laboratory equipment and the development of this side of the curriculum was slow. Of interest is this little description by Mr. Bracewell.

> "We had no scientific laboratory prior to 1884, at which time the pupils by voluntary contribution purchased a small outfit, and when the entire grade schools were called in to see a watch spring consumed by oxygen, the situation was startling."[1]

Vocational Agriculture and Homemaking

The schools of the county for many years have been teaching agriculture in the classroom, but the teaching was largely informational rather than vocational. The teaching of agriculture is optional with the rural schools, and most of the high schools offer some course in it, but only three up to this date have taken advantage of the federal aid which has been available since the passage of the Smith-Hughes law in 1917.

Corydon High School began the teaching of agriculture under the Smith-Hughes specifications in 1928. Sewal started about the same time, and Humeston and Seymour started a few years later.

All of the school plants built within the last twenty years have facilities for the teaching of home economics and some of the administrators have made a place for it in buildings not constructed with that kind of program in mind. Corydon, Humeston, Allerton, and Seymour teach Smith-Hughes Vocational Homemaking.[2]

Reading

The pupils in the early schools were taught to read in unison; of course that placed the emphasis on oral response with special regard to expression given by the reader. As newer methods were taught to the teachers who continued their training, and as school superintendents became aware of the importance of the reading adaptation, greater emphasis was placed on the silent reading.

During 1937-1938 the schools of Wayne County entered into a county-wide program for the improvement of reading. Tests were given in the fall of the year. Then the program for the improvement of the reading was begun with special emphasis on reading for information in content subjects such as geography, history, and hygiene.

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[1] R.B. Bracewell. Unpublished manuscript. Corydon, Ia., 1935.

[2] Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

Reading specialists from Iowa State Teachers College gave demonstrations on classroom technique in remedial teaching. In the spring of 1938 the pupils were tested again to record the progress made. It was found in the fall that in general both town and rural schools received median scores below the standard for the test and below the median for the state. In the spring the town schools showed improvement and surpassed the standard, and in a few instances, the state, but the record was generally somewhat lower than the state. The rural schools, generally speaking, did not make as much improvement as the town schools. The tests used were the Iowa Silent Reading Tests by H. A. Greene and V. H. Kelley.

In the spring of 1940, Dr. W. B. Townsent, reading specialist from Butler University, conducted a reading clinic for one day in the Corydon High School Auditorium for the teachers of the county.

These tests and demonstrations have tended to bring to the attention of the teachers in general the importance of reading ability in the schools.

This program or one similar has been continued. Tests are run each year to determine the program. This writer is happy to report that in this year (1956) the students in all the schools were measured in their reading ability and given special instruction where it was needed.[1]

Music

The teaching of music was somewhat slow to come into the schools as a part of the curriculum. There were the singing schools in the early beginnings, but they were not a part of the regular program, and were not as a rule taught by the teachers of the schools. Indeed, quite a number of them were sponsored by the church and held in the church buildings. The teaching of piano was, and of course still is, largely accomplished by means of private lessons in the homes. The girls, much more than the boys, received this training. Mr. Bracewell points out that prior to 1890 the girls received piano lessons, but that about this time the religious bar was taken from the "fiddle" and it became a violin.

Mr. Bracewell speaks further of the musical training offered in the schools while he attended from 1872 until graduated from high school.

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[1] Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

[2] R. B. Bracewell. Unpublished manuscript. Corydon, Ia., 1935.

"Let me narrate two incidents showing how meager was the musical education of the early days. Back in the old frame schoolhouse someone taught us a song not taken from the church music. It was a catchy tune, and we children in the grades sang it over and over. We did not know its name or its composer. Later I heard it on a Victor record and heard the operatic star, Frieda Hempel, sing it. It was a classic, "Variations" from an air by Mozart.

In my sophomore year, I heard a band play a selection which so impressed me that I remembered it and learned to whistle the tune. Later I found it was an air from the opera, "The Bohemian Girl." Four long years I had spent in the study of Latin, but of the world's finest music I had not been taught a line."[1]

Mr. Bracewell makes it clear that the schools were not without song, for they usually had opening exercises which included some singing. Often the songs were taken from church music.

Every year since about 1929, the schools of the county have met for a musical festival in which both the town schools and the rural schools participate; the rural group presents a selection in which the participants are selected from the county as a whole. Each group presents its best selection, and each town is allowed about ten minutes. There is no competition, but nevertheless the pupils do tend to give as good a rendition of their number as possible. This musical festival has done much to promote better music in the county.

The schools also enter into the state contests, and in recent years several Wayne County students have received recognition, not only in Iowa, but also in the regional music contest at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

In later years the schools have continued their music programs. There are at the present five high school bands. All of the schools give some type of formal training in music.[2]

Manual Training

One of the subjects which grew out of the demand for something practical was manual training. Then too, some educators in the county were beginning to realize that there were too few subjects in which the child retarded in the content subjects might express himself by working with his hands, thus gaining a measure of confidence in his own ability, and perhaps, a desire to continue in school for a longer period of time.

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[1] R. B. Bracewell. Unpublished manuscript. Corydon, Ia., 1935.

[2] Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

Manual training in the schools had its inception in Wayne County since the year 1910. Allerton began teaching it about 1912 and Corydon started a course in 1914. Now all of the town schools offer the subject, and several of the rural schools have a semblance of such training. Lack of support has retarded the growth and the expansion of this subject to the place where it can justly be called vocational training. Some improvement has been made in recent years, but many of the schools still do not have appropriate equipment to teach the subject well.

Manuel training, as the course was originally known, has given way to a much broader course since 1940. A course called industrial arts is now offered in most of the schools. It embraces a much wider field of study to include machine work, crafts, welding, and many other activities. Most of the schools have greatly enlarged this department and feel that it has a justifiable place in the curriculum.[1]

Social Sciences

In the early schools in Wayne County the pupils were taught to recite their history verbatim from the text books. To be able to recite two or three pages of history in this manner was considered a marvelous accomplishment. Geography was taught by singing phrases or sentences.[2]

Since 1940 great strides have been made in the teaching of social science. They are largely taught now as integrated subjects. The newer methods of presenting these subjects have made them much more interesting to the student and have given much more reason to the study of this important field.[3]

Athletics

Every town in the county has some kind of gymnasium, and every town school participates in interschool athletic contests. All of the schools have basketball teams, but some of the smaller schools have abandoned football in the last decade. There are at least two reasons for this: first, lack of material to make a good team, and second, the cost of equipment. Girls' basketball as a competitive game between schools is well developed.

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[1] Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

[2] R. B. Bracewell. Unpublished manuscript. Corydon, Iowa, 1935. John S. Stamps, Seymour, Ia. . Personal interview, May, 1940.

[3] Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

Most of the athletics and coaching systems had humble beginnings. The first coaches were often graduates who had attended college and, still interested in the old school, coached part time, or even as a hobby. John Stamps, principal of the Seymour High School in 1905-1906, claims to have started the first coaching of athletic teams in that town.[1] Corydon had an athletic coach of some kind as early as 1900 for the boys, but none for the girls until about 1912. Corydon, one of the more progressive of the schools, had no regular physical training classes for boys and for girls until 1925.[2]

Track in Wayne County has had rather a varied history. There seem to have been years when there was little interest and not much done. One man brought international recognition to Corydon High School, and thus to the county, by his ability in track. At the Olympic International Athletic games in Los Angeles, California, in 1932, George Saling Jr. won the 110 meter high hurdles in 14:6 seconds.

Most of the schools have developed their athletic programs to include a broader program of physical education.

The competitive sports have also been increased. Five of the seven high schools have football teams and all have boys' and girls' basketball teams.[3]

Kindergarten

Apparently no school in the county had a kindergarten until Corydon started one in the fall of 1916. Allerton followed, but it was not until twenty years later. The movement has been kept down in most of the schools by lack of support, because of a general feeling on the part of many that the benefits derived did not justify the cost of the program. As the public becomes educated to realize its value, more schools will doubtless offer kindergarten training.

All of the town schools are now (1956) offering either a kindergarten course or a pre-first grade.[4]

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[1] John S. Stamps, Seymour, Iowa. Personal interview, May, 1940.

[2] Kathryn Clayton, Corydon, Iowa. Personal interview, June, 1940.

[3] Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent of Schools, August, 1956.

[4] Ibid.

Summary

Early schoolhouses were made of logs, but most of the buildings erected after 1860 were of frame construction. Because of inflationary prices, the value of buildings and grounds rose nearly a million dollars from 1910 to 1920, but declined by about the same amount in the following decade.

School terms at first were short, especially in rural areas. Many districts did not provide nine months of school until required to do so by law.

Early schools were ungraded. Corydon, as early as 1879, had one of the first graded schools.

Training of teachers in the early schools was facilitated by teachers' institutes. Later came Normal Training high schools and the extension summer school of the Iowa State Teachers College.

Salaries have been low and have not acted as a stimulus for the teachers to become better trained.

The library facilities of the schools and of the towns have been poor and are still in need of much improvement.

Practical subjects were slow to be introduced because of (1) tradition, (2) lack of trained teachers, (3) lack of funds to purchase necessary equipment.

Vocational training, vocational guidance, visual education, and the kindergarten movement have made small beginnings, but for the most part are retarded because of a public which has not yet awakened to the need of them nor to their value.

Athletics on the whole have developed well and receive better support than many other things which are more essential.

Chapter III

RURAL AND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS AND THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENCY

The Rural Schools

In the school year of 1939-1940 there were eighty-one rural schools in Wayne County, the number having fluctuated between eighty and eighty-five for the previous ten years with an estimated average of about ten pupils in each school.

The following table will give the number of graduates from the rural schools for the last thirty-two years exclusive of the consolidated schools at Cambria and Sewal, and will also show the total enrollment in the rural schools for the last twenty-eight years.

Table No. 8 1997175

EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES & TOTAL ENROLLMENT IN THE RURAL SCHOOLS

Year	Graduates	Total Rural Pupils
1925	91	
1926	68	
1927	101	
1928	76	
1929	69	1384
1930	67	1286
1931	77	1310
1932	91	1261
1933	100	1392
1934	133	1266
1935	111	1116
1936	89	1070
1937	110	1046
1938	86	968
1939	85	980
1940	100	1026
1941	86	1029
1942	65	984
1943	99	961
1944	85	931
1945	78	907
1946	71	911
1947	78	889
1948	55	796
1949	55	700
1950	57	655
1951	66	569
1952	54	497
1953	43	474
1954	35	420
1955	41	383
1956	38	316

[1] Records of the County Superintendent.

The table on the preceding page shows a definite trend upward in the percentage being graduated from the rural schools. The total number of pupils, however, has definitely decreased.

Salaries of the rural teachers are very low. Seven of the townships, Wright, Richman, South Fork, Walnut, Jefferson, Clinton, and Monroe, pay their teachers fifty dollars per month on a nine months basis, with no increased compensation for advanced training or experience. (1940) Some of the townships have worked out a salary schedule by which higher wages are paid to those who are experienced. No increased compensation is given for added training. The highest salaries are paid to three men teachers who each receive $67.50 per month on a nine months basis. Two of these men are married and have families. One man has a Uniform County Certificate and has had two summers of college work. The other two hold Normal Training Certificates and have had no college training.[1]

The eighty-one rural teachers who taught during the 1939-1940 school year had educational training as follows:

41 had Normal Training in high school only
8 had Normal Training in high school plus one summer term
1 had Normal Training in high school plus two summer terms
1 had Normal Training in high school plus five summer terms
8 had Normal Training in high school plus one year in college.
1 had Normal Training in high school plus two years in college.
8 had general high school course plus one summer term
4 had general high school course plus two summer terms
3 had general high school course plus two years in college
1 had general high school course plus four years of college
5 training unknown

A study of the training of these rural teachers reveals that over one-half of them have only a normal training course in high school as preparation. If three summers are estimated as equivalent to one year of college, it may be stated that one teacher has completed four years of college, four have completed two years, and fourteen have completed one year. About twenty-three per cent, or less than one fourth, have had one year of college or more. Although it is unfortunate that so many children in the county should be under the instruction of teachers so poorly trained, yet the salaries paid are by no means sufficiently attractive to induce prospective teachers to go far beyond the local high schools.

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[1] Charles N. Elmore, Co. Supt. Personal letter, July, 1940.

[2] Darlene Holder, Deputy Supt. Personal letter, June, 1940.

The number and kind of certificates held by the eighty-one rural teachers of the county are as follows:[1]

58 held Normal Training Certificates
9 held First Grade Uniform County--regular
1 held First Grade Uniform County--two years of college
6 held Second Grade Uniform County
2 held Third Grade Uniform County
3 held Standard Elementary
1 held Standard Secondary
1 held Rural State

The foregoing paragraphs were written in 1940 and reflect the conditions of that time. This situation is somewhat different now. (1956) There are now nineteen rural teachers in the county including four in Promise City, two in Millerton, and one in Clio. In 1940 these schools were not in the rural system. Of these teachers all have or are closely approaching the college degree. There is no question but what the general level of instruction in the rural schools is much improved over what it was in 1940.[2]

Salaries are somewhat improved, but are yet considerably lower than the others of the county. They are such, however, as are making it possible for the teachers to continue their training and improve their quality of instruction. Many of the rural teachers move directly into the town systems as soon as they can meet the somewhat higher educational standards required by the towns.[3]

Most of the rural buildings in the county are old and are in need of repairs and remodeling, or replacement with new structures. The newest and most modern rural schoolhouse is the Clay Center. As the name implies, it is located at the center of Clay Township, approximately six miles south of Humeston and a short distance east of U. S. Highway 65. A new building was erected in this district, because the old schoolhouse was destroyed by fire. The building is the only rural one-room schoolhouse having a well lighted basement with a furnace and with storage space for fuel. Although there are sufficient windows correctly placed to admit light for study under ordinary conditions, there are no electric lights to be used on dark days. Clay Center is one of the twenty-two standard schools in the county.[4]

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[1] Darlene Holder, Deputy Supt. Personal letter, June, 1940.

[2] Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

[3] Ibid.

[4] Darlene Holder, Deputy Supt. Personal letter, June, 1940.

As this report is being revised in 1956 we find a somewhat different situation regarding the schoolhouses. Some buildings have been built since the foregoing report and most have been considerably improved. All have electricity for lighting and most have automatic oil space heaters. The Clay Center School mentioned above is the only school still operating which has a full basement. Benton Township, however, has had at least three such schools since 1940 but none are now operating. With one or two exceptions the rural schools which are still operating are rather well equipped. This no doubt is due to the fact that the teachers are better trained and are able to help the directors in selecting equipment for their schools.[1]

The rural schools have already received general treatment, and as they are so numerous, it would be impossible in a study of this kind to give a separate history of all of them. Perhaps it will suffice if a brief account be given of two of them which may be regarded as typical of the others.

The Bethlehem School

The first settler in Union Township was Henry McDaniel, who located there in 1849. Other settlers followed, and a few years later a schoolhouse was built near the McDaniel homestead. The desks, made of native lumber, were crude and heavy, but that did not deter the pupils from carving their names or initials in them, nor did it decrease the enrollment, for it ranged between sixty and seventy-four for a number of years. In spite of the fact that only the "three R's" were taught, the control and instruction of such a large group was no small task for one teacher. Some of those who were successful in this task in the sixties were Sim Steele, Dick Given, D. T. Case, Mr. Colegrove, Mary Laing, and Mrs. Jolly.[2]

The school was known as Sub-District Number Six until March, 1873, when it was named Bethlehem. It was evidently given this name because of its proximity to the old village of Bethlehem, founded in 1852 by Morgan Parr, a Christian minister. The village at one time had several business establishments including a grist mill, but no railroad was ever built through the town.[3]

As more people moved into the district, the schoolhouse was found to be poorly located, for some children had to travel three or four miles in order to attend. Therefore it was decided to move the building nearer to the center of population. Several teams of oxen supplied the motive power, and the building was set down on its present site. As the schoolhouse began to be in need of extensive repairs in 1881, the district voted bonds to the amount of six hundred dollars, tore down the old building, and erected the present one.[4]

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[1]Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

[2]Anna K. Smith in The Corydon Times Republican, Oct. 19, 1939.

[3]Anna K. Smith. Personal letter, July, 1940.

[4]Ibid.

The Bethlehem School for a number of years was truly a community center. As was the custom in the early schools, and well up into the eighties and nineties, spelling bees were held and people would come for miles to attend them. Some people walked, while others came on horseback, or in wagons and other vehicles drawn either by oxen or horses. Usually these conveyances were loaded to capacity, for a spelling match was considered excellent entertainment for both young and old. Mrs. Smith describes the spelling matches as follows:

> "There were different ways of conducting the spelling match. Two captains were chosen, one for each side of the house, each choosing the spellers for his side until all were chosen. The teacher or someone else pronounced the words and the spelling continued on one side of the house, then on the other, while someone kept account of misspelled words. The side with the fewer misspelled words was the winner.
>
> Then there would be a recess and most everyone, if the weather was favorable, and especially on moonlight nights, would go out engaging in some sport until the bell rang. The last thing on the program was to "stand up and spell down", the last one up being the champion speller."[1]

Usually during the winter months a writing teacher would give a course in penmanship. The pupils had to bring, not only their own writing materials, but candles to put on their desks for light as well.[2]

Since the construction of the present school building in 1881, very little seems to have been spent to keep it in good repair. It looks as if it has never been painted, and appears to be ill fitted for school purposes. (1940)

What the condition of the school building has to do with the health of the pupils and that of the teacher, is a question that might well be raised when considering Bethlehem School. The Corydon Times Republican of October 26, 1939, carried the following story:

TEACHER RESIGNS AT RURAL SCHOOL

> "Miss Evelyn Davis, teacher of the Bethlehem School, resigned Monday, October 23. Gerald Ellis, who taught the Clay Center School for four years, will fill the vacancy.

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[1] Anna K. Smith. Personal letter, July, 1940.

[2] Ibid.

Miss Davis took a tuberculin test at Centerville and her reaction was positive indicating that she carried the germ. As soon as she learned this fact she resigned. Miss Davis taught four successive years in Bethlehem, and two years in Palestine. She is the daughter of E. L. Davis of the Bethlehem neighborhood.

There were twenty pupils in the Bethlehem School and when they were given the test Wednesday, October 25, seven were found to be reactors."

Although there had been as many as seventy-four pupils enrolled during the first year of the school's existence, the enrollment is characteristic of other schools as will be pointed out later.

Fairview School or Wright Township

When the first settlers came to Wright Township, they felt the need of schools, but Fairview was not one of the first to be established, for Union Township had a school at Bethlehem at least twenty years before the establishment of this school. The first building in the Fairview district was constructed in 1875 by Mr. Easley. It was located approximately three miles east of the old Bethlehem community, or in the southeast corner of section twenty-one of Wright Township.[1]

The school was not satisfactorily located, because the greater part of the district lay to the south, and the larger share of the pupils lived in that portion of the district, thus making it necessary for many children to travel too long a distance in order to attend. People complained of the inconvenience of the situation, but it remained for Mrs. Wm. McMurry or Aunt Jane as she was commonly called by those who knew her intimately, to take upon herself the task of trying to get the schoolhouse moved a mile to the south, or to its present site. Before the schoolboard, in her kind and persuasive voice, she pleaded the cause of the children in terms of economy of time, and even of economy of shoe leather. So convincing was her argument that in the year 1885 the school board decided to have the building moved to the present site where it served the district until 1904, when it was replaced by a new one.

The people of the Fairview neighborhood love to come together for programs and entertainments, and the schoolhouse has always been a place of activity and quite a community center. Spelling bees, socials, writing schools, and business meetings were held here as well as programs for the observance of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and other holidays.

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[1]The information on Fairview School was given by Charles Elmore, County Superintendent, in a personal letter, July, 1940.

Fairview School, partly through the continued efforts of Altha E. Green, the present teacher, has had the honor of being one of the six standard schools in Wright Township. As noted before, there are but twenty-two such schools in the entire county.

During the early years, the enrollment of the school was above sixty, but there has been a steady decrease until at one time there were only five pupils enrolled. However, there have been more pupils than that as the accompanying table will show.

Table No. 9

ENROLLMENT IN THE BETHLEHEM AND FAIRVIEW SCHOOLS[1]

Year	Bethlehem	Fairview	Year	Bethlehem	Fairview
1929	19	12	1943	14	13
1930	17	15	1944	12	13
1931	14	12	1945	12	13
1932	19	11	1946	13	16
1933	14	15	1947	16	19
1934	16	10	1948	14	14
1935	15	11	1949	16	18
1936	17	10	1950	15	17
1937	17	12	1951	17	16
1938	21	13	1952	18	No school
1939	22	13	1953	17	--
1940	20	15	1954	21	--
1941	24	17	1955	14	--
1942	24	10	1956	12	--

Although the total number of pupils enrolled in the rural schools has decreased, a study of the table will reveal that there has been no noticeable change in the enrollment trend in the Fairview School in recent years. The Bethlehem School shows a higher average enrollment for the last six years than it does for the period from 1929 to 1934, inclusive. As the average number of pupils enrolled in each rural school last year was approximately 12.7, these two schools were above the average of the county. No complete enrollment data are available for years prior to 1929.

The Fairview School was discontinued in 1951. The building and land have since been sold.[2]

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[1]Data given by Charles N. Elmore. Personal letter, July, 1940.

[2]Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

The Consolidated Schools

In the period from 1918 to 1927 while Ava Amenell served as County Superintendent, there were no less than twelve petitions made for consolidation in the county. Although some of these never reached the day of voting, because of their impracticability, and others were defeated at the polls; two successful consolidated schools finally emerged. The district at Cambria located in the northern part of the county had somewhat better rural schools and better roads than did the Sewal district, located in the southern part of the county.[1]

The writer will attempt to give a brief history and a description of these two schools.

The Consolidated Schools at Cambria

Cambria is a village of approximately 200 population located in Washington Township on the Chicago Burlington and Quincy Railroad. The town claims the honor of having the first post office in the county. It was located in a store one mile west of the present village and established in 1849. This was at the time of the Mormon migration, and one of the later Mormon trails passed near the place; however, the "Pioneer" or the old "Camp of Israel" trail was farther to the south.[2]

At the time of establishment of the post office, a village was platted and the owner of the land aspired to have it become the county seat; but two or three years later the post office was moved to a new location a mile to the south. Several years later it was again moved to a place a mile and a quarter east of the present site of Cambria. Here A. Nelson, a farmer, laid out a village and recorded it as Cambria in 1885. A general store, a blacksmith shop, a carpenter shop, two dwellings, and a schoolhouse were built. The Methodists and the Baptists each erected a church building.[3]

When the railroad was built from Humeston to Corydon in 1879, the present town of Cambria was platted by S. K. Rinard. Benjamin Killembarger built the first hotel and LeRoy McMahon the first store. Later a bank, a drug store, a grain elevator two hotels, a lumber yard, and a livery barn were built. The town Nelson had laid out was abandoned. The Baptists and the Methodists moved their church buildings to the new location and held services on alternate Sundays. The schoolhouse was not moved; however, and the children of the town had to walk a mile and a quarter to school.[4]

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[1] Ava Amenell, Personal letter, July 1, 1940.

[2] Jacob Vander Zee. The Mormon Trails in Iowa, and The Iowa Journal of History and Politics, Vol. XII.

[3] George Rush, Cambria, Iowa. Personal interview, May, 1940. Biographical and Historical Record of Wayne and Appanoose Counties.

[4] George Rush, Cambria, Iowa. Personal interview, May, 1940.

The question of whether to move the schoolhouse was voted upon sometime about 1887, and it was decided that it should be moved to town. The village of Cambria was never incorporated, and the district did not vote to become independent, so the school was conducted much the same as a rural school with the exception that algebra was taught, and at times it had two teachers because of the large number of pupils.[1]

As the writer interviewed some of the former members of the board, they stated that the Cambria district had consolidated because the enrollment in the district schools had decreased to the extent to where it appeared that some of them would have to close, and that would mean paying transportation for some of the pupils to other districts. Several of the buildings were in need of rather extensive repairs. Iowa was promoting the idea of consolidated schools very strongly, and it appealed to many of the leaders in the township, who therefore submitted a petition to have the question voted on. This was granted, and the result was that the voters declared themselves in favor of consolidation of all of Washington Township and one section of Benton.[2]

But the battle for consolidation was not won with the first voting on the question. Some of the property owners knew that it would raise their taxes, and so they contested the legality of the procedure. They took the dispute before the County Board of Education which held that the district had been legally created according to law. Not being ready to give up yet the plaintiffs decided to take the case to the district court. The Wayne County Democrat makes mention of the case and its outcome as follows:

CONSOLIDATION STANDS

> "The hearing of John Snook and others last week of the Cambria Consolidated School District, was decided by Judge Fuller in favor of the District. Mr. Snook's Counsel contended that the district was not legally created. We are informed that an appeal to the supreme court will be taken."[3]

The plaintiffs, after some deliberation, decided they had had enough trouble and did not appeal the case. They had based most of their claims on the contention that the notices of election had not been properly published, but Ava Amenell, County Superintendent of Schools, presented sufficient evidence to prove that this was not true.[4]

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[1] S. W. Hart and George W. Rush, Cambria, Iowa. Personal interview, May, 1940.

[2] Ibid.

[3] The Wayne County Democrat, Corydon, Iowa, Sept. 2, 1920.

[4] S. W. Hart, Cambria, Iowa. Personal interview, May, 1940.

Mr. Hart, president of the school board during the struggle, stated he had tried very hard to forget it for at least twenty years and was reluctant to talk about it. Ava Amenell, County Superintendent at that time, in a letter to the writer made a similar statement, saying she felt sure those who fought consolidation at first were later often supporters of it, and proud of their school.[1]

The first action of the school board after finding the vote in favor of consolidation, was to have several of the rural schoolhouses moved to Cambria and placed in convenient proximity on a piece of ground not far from where the building now stands. A shed built on to one of the buildings to serve as a manual training room was temporarily built mostly for getting a certain amount of state aid which it would have been impossible to get without doing so. These schoolhouses moved in from the country served to house the school until the new building was ready to be occupied.[2]

Transportation of the pupils was a problem that early faced the school board, because of the almost impassable condition of the country roads at certain seasons of the year. During the first few years horse drawn busses were used to transport the pupils. At the present time, because of some improvement in roads, motor busses are in use. There are twelve bus routes with a total length of 68.5 miles. Transportation was provided for 133 pupils during the school year ending in 1939. The total transportation bill for the same year was $4,666.30 or about 19½ cents per day per pupil.[3]

In 1955-56 the Cambria School operated four busses. The average number transported daily was 103 students. The combined length of routes was 173 miles. The total transportation bill for the year was $7951.98. This amounts to $72.42 per year per child or about 40 cents per child per day.[4]

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[1] Ava Amenell, personal letter, July 1, 1940.

[2] Op. cit.

[3] Annual report of the County Superintendent, 1939.

[4] Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

After the new school building was completed, the old schoolhouses were sold at public auction. Most of them were purchased by farmers in the community and used as farm buildings. The land on which the rural schools had stood was also sold. Most of this land brought about seventy-five dollars per acre at that time. There was not much land to be sold, however, as each rural school had only about one acre of ground. One of the school sites could not be sold, as it belonged to one Jimmy Hogue and had been turned over to the district for school purposes only, and thus reverted to the original donor. It was also found that the district did not own one school site, because the building had not been placed on the land purchased, but on a piece some distance away.[1]

In order to pay for the new school plant the district voted for a bond issue of $50,000. Later another issue of $9,700 was necessary to equip the building.[2]

Plans were made to retire the bonds, and the bonded indebtedness June 30, 1939, was $27,700 with no interest bearing warrants outstanding.[3] The tax levy for the schoolhouse fund was 9.34 and 12.89 with a total of 22.23 mills. This is lower than that of the Sewal Consolidated School and lower than any of the town levies with the exception of Millerton whose levy is 20.00. The district is comprised of all of Washington Township and approximately one section of Benton Township. The total area of the district is 36.9 square miles. The actual valuation of the property in the district is $905,154.[4] The assessed valuation in 1955 was $1,058,498. The total cost of operation was $47,200.90. The millage rate was 30.150.

The writer has not attempted to study thoroughly and in detail the sentiment of the people in the district toward consolidation. Mr. Farmer, the superintendent of schools, says the people are satisfied with the idea of consolidation, and that most of the people are boosters for it. The writer picked out a landowner in the district at random and asked his opinion and found him to say that he thought consolidation was all right with the exception that it made the taxes too high. He added that his objection was also that of a large number of others who owned land in the district. A few days later the writer with the help of the County Treasurer, Gene Bigus, picked a piece of property at random within the consolidated school district of Cambria and looked up the tax record in 1918 before consolidation and again for 1939.

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[1] S. W. Hart and George W. Rush. Personal interview. Cambria, Iowa, May, 1940.

[2] Elmer Fry, Secretary of the school board, Cambria, Iowa. Personal interview, May, 1940.

[3] Annual report of the County Superintendent, 1939.

[4] Ibid.

[5] Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

The property investigated was the north one-half of the northwest quarter of section 16, township 70, range 22. The tax on the property in 1918 was $70.51 and it was $119.23 for 1939. Since the owner lived on the property, he was entitled to the homestead tax exemption of $46.60, making the total tax bill $62.68, or $7.83 less than the owner living on it would have had to pay in 1918 before consolidation went into effect.[1]

When the consolidated school first opened, there were no pupils for the eleventh and twelfth grades. The eleventh grade was therefore begun in 1921 and the twelfth the following year. There is little incentive for the pupils to terminate their formal school career on their completion of the eighth grade, as might be true if they had attended a one room rural school. Most of them continue in school until they have graduated from the high school.

Cambria Consolidated Schools has nine teachers and has a four year approved high school with an enrollment of sixty and an average daily attendance of 56.2. The eight grades below the high school have an enrollment of ninety-one with an average daily attendance of 89.6. No tuition pupils are enrolled in the elementary school and but six in the high school, making the total receipt for outside tuition only $171.00. The following table will give some idea of the enrollment trends from the beginning.

Table No. 10
ENROLLMENT IN THE CAMBRIA SCHOOLS[2]

Year	H. S.	Elementary	Total
1930-1931	49	152	201
1931-1932	45	164	209
1932-1933	47	168	215
1933-1934	51	167	218
1934-1935	62	152	214
1935-1936	63	144	207
1936-1937	57	126	183
1937-1938	59	126	185
1938-1939	60	97	157
1939-1940	60	91	151
1940-1941	59	112	171
1941-1942	51	106	157
1942-1943	52	110	162
1943-1944	54	108	162
1944-1945	56	113	169
1945-1946	46	95	141
1946-1947	41	96	137
1947-1948	52	94	146
1948-1949	54	96	150
1949-1950	51	91	142
1950-1951	48	85	133
1951-1952	41	88	129
1952-1953	47	108	155
1953-1954	52	114	1[illegible]
1954-1955	47	110	1[illegible]
1955-1956	45	106	15[illegible]

[1] Gene Bigus, Co. Treasurer. Personal interview, May, 1940.

A study of the table will reveal that the total enrollment of the school was greatest in 1933-34. The highest enrollment in the elementary school took place the year before this, and the greatest enrollment in high school occurred in 1935-36.

The superintendents who have served the school since it was consolidated are as follows:[1]

Name	Years
D. N. Knepper	1920-1921
S. Z. Scott	1921-1924
Otto B. Laing	1924-1926
L. D. Camp	1926-1927
Wm. H. Young	1928-1934
Charles N. Elmore	1934-1936
C. W. Farmer	1936-1940
Raymond E. Buyers	1940-1945
E. W. Ozias	1945-1947
F. C. Dorsey	1947-1950
Frank Fenton Fish	1950-1953
E. Claire Henderson	1953-1954
Irvin K. Van Fleet	1954-1955
Elmer Perkins	1955-

The Consolidated School at Sewal

Sewal is a village in the southern part of Jackson Township and developed with the building of the Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad about 1886. For some time after the establishment of the town, the children attended the district school a short distance away. In 1891 the district was divided and a schoolhouse was erected in Loughman's First Addition to Sewal. For some time this was a one teacher school, but when the pupils became rather numerous, there were a few years when two teachers were employed. The school had an average enrollment through the years of approximately thirty-five pupils. Some of the first teachers here were Alice Burton, Mary Shields, Emma Rathburn, Retta Shock, and Mae Holcomb.[2]

As the idea of consolidated schools became better known in the state of Iowa, some of the people thought a plan of consolidation might work successfully near Sewal, for the schools there were definitely in need of improvement. The legal steps toward consolidation were taken in 1919, and in that year the consolidated district was organized. School began in the fall in the old district schoolhouse and in an old store building. Here it continued until January 1, 1920, when the new building was completed and ready for occupancy.[3]

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[1] Iowa Educational Directories issued by State Dept.

[2] Eulah Entsminger, Sewal, personal letter, June, 1940.

[3] Ibid.

Ava Amenell, who was then the County Superintendent, speaks of consolidation and of the organization of the Sewal district as follows:

"Sewal sent in the first petition for consolidation. Deputy State Superintendent Joseph met with the people several weeks after the community had met and discussed the pros and cons of consolidation, and the procedure which must be followed before they could vote on the proposition. Mr. Joseph told them of the advantages and also of the disadvantages that the voter would know both sides. When the election was held, consolidation carried. Then followed the task of organization and building. A committee went to Cedar Falls and interviewed Macey Campbell, now deceased but at that time the foremost educational promoter for consolidation in the United States. He accompanied them to the nearby consolidated plants. They also secured while there Jay J. Sherman as their superintendent. He conducted a good school in two or more buildings in Sewal before the new plant could be constructed. You should have seen the faces of those pupils light up with pleasure when Superintendent Sherman was showing the new library and other equipment to me. You must realize at that time they did not have a sum, however small, to be used for library books, and many of the rural schools had only a very few books. Some of the districts in this community had had less than eight months of school prior to consolidation."[1]

The consolidated district of Sewal, lying in the southern part of the county, borders on the Iowa-Missouri line. While Cambria's district includes slightly over thirty-six square miles, Sewal's district is much smaller including approximately twenty-six square miles. Some of the poorer land in the county, with steep hills, thin soil, and eroded fields is found in the Sewal district. Some eight schools were formerly in the district before consolidation; however, they were not as progressive as those in the Cambria district, and because of this the pupils had been retarded in their learning.

Although the town of Sewal does not have a water pressure system nor electric lights, the school plant has a water system of its own. The heating plant, water pressure system, and light plant are in the basement of the building. Also, in the basement, are the gymnasium, and the home economics and manual training rooms. The other two floors are taken up by classrooms and a small office for the superintendent.

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[1] Ava Amenell, Co. Supt, 1918-27. Personal letter, July, 1940. Jay J. Sherman, here mentioned, later became professor of political science at Wayne University, in Detroit, Mich. Ph:d - S. U. I. - 1924.

[2] Gerald Dunsmore, Sewal Supt. Personal interview, May, 1940.

The cost of Sewal's grounds, buildings, and equipment was approximately $85,000.

In 1919-1920 there were but two years of high school, but at the beginning of the next two years a grade was added each year. The first class was graduated from the four year high school in 1922. The superintendents who have served the school since it was consolidated are as follows:[1]

Name	Years
Jay J. Sherman	1922-1924
J. L. Mozino	1924-1926
L. E. Moore	1926-1929
D. J. Heppner	1929-1933
Paul Grouwinkel	1933-1934
Clyde R. Andrews	1934-1937
Gerald Dunsmore	1937-1941
Frank L. Mott	1941-1943
M. V. Kauzlarich	1943-1944
Edwin Richman	1944-1946
P. L. Schuler	1946-1947
E. J. Pollock	1947-1948
R. D. Nelson	1948-1951
Marlen E. Shell	1951-1955
Charles Frizzell	1955-

As in the Cambria district, one of the difficult problems for the Sewal School to solve was that of transportation of pupils, because there were no surfaced roads at that time. Although most of the bus routes at the present time are only common dirt roads, many of them have been graded in recent years, making transportation somewhat easier, but travel is still difficult, especially with adverse weather conditions, as a good share of the routes go over rather steep, hilly ground.

The school owns eight heavy carriage type busses which are usually drawn by four horses. The total length of all the bus routes is forty miles, with the longest route nine miles in length. The school contracts with individuals to transport the pupils. Last year the number of pupils transported was 110, at a total cost to the district of $3,589. This amounts to approximately seventeen and one-half cents per day per pupil, and is slightly less than that of Cambria which uses motor vehicles and which also has a larger district. The horse drawn busses are slow, especially when the roads are muddy or snow covered. During heavy snows, sleds sometimes are substituted for the busses. Sometimes when roads are bad it is necessary for those persons who live at the end of the bus route to leave home before seven o'clock in the morning in order to be in school on time. Some of the difficulties will be done away with when roads are improved so that motor vehicles can be substituted for the horse drawn busses.

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[1] Iowa Educational Directories issued by the State Dept.

Some of the drivers now are licensed to transport the children in their own automobiles, and when the roads are passable, they use their cars and in spite of their having to make more than one trip, they still save time.[1]

In 1955-56 the school operated three motor busses with total length of routes 103 miles. The total cost of the transportation program was $5168.46. They were transporting 85 students at an annual cost of 60.43 per student per year or a daily cost of about 36 cents per child.[2]

In 1939 the total enrollment of the Sewal Consolidated Schools was 121, with fifty in the high school and seventy-one in the elementary grades. There were nineteen tuition students in high school and two in the elementary school, for whom the school was paid $1,891.88 in tuition.[3]

The enrollment in 1955-56 was 103. Of this number 19 were in the high school and 84 in the elementary school.[4]

The table on the following page will show the enrollment trends in the Sewal Consolidated Schools since their organization. There was a rise in the number of pupils until a peak was reached in the total enrollment about 1929. Since then there has been a decrease in the total of about one-third. However, the falling off was greater in the elementary school than in the high school.

Like the consolidated school at Cambria, the school at Sewal is a community center. Many of the Farm Bureau programs and the meetings of the Agriculture Adjustment Administration are held there. Programs of the school, plays, and basketball games, all have their place. There is a kind of parent teacher organization, which they call the "Community Mixer" which meets once each month with the first part of the evening being taken up by a program of education or entertainment and followed by a social hour. Then under the Smith-Hughes plan of teaching agriculture, they have their adult evening classes once each week for a period of eleven weeks in the winter time.[5]

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[1]Annual report of the County Superintendent, 1939. Gerald Dunsmore, Superintendent of Schools, Sewal, Iowa. Personal interview, May, 1940.

[2]Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

[3]Annual report of the County Superintendent.

[4]Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

[5]Gerald Dunsmore, Superintendent of Schools, Sewal, Iowa. Personal interview, May, 1940.

Table No. 11

SHOWING ENROLLMENT IN THE SEWAL CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS[1]

Year	High School	Elementary	Total
1920-1921	--	--	115
1923-1924	72	88	160
1927-1928	70	110	180
1929-1930	63	124	187
1930-1931	57	122	179
1931-1932	67	110	177
1932-1933	57	103	160
1933-1934	67	103	170
1934-1935	66	89	155
1935-1936	72	100	172
1936-1937	68	94	162
1937-1938	65	80	145
1938-1939	58	78	136
1939-1940	50	71	121
1940-1941	50	73	123
1941-1942	47	62	109
1942-1943	34	67	101
1943-1944	34	65	99
1944-1945	41	74	115
1945-1946	38	77	115
1946-1947	39	79	118
1947-1948	33	94	127
1948-1949	34	66	100
1949-1950	32	73	105
1950-1951	32	63	95
1951-1952	26	89	115
1952-1953	25	94	119
1953-1954	24	88	112
1954-1955	26	92	118
1955-1956	20	92	112

The County Superintendency

Before the advent of the office of County Superintendent of Schools, some of the duties of that official were performed by the school fund commissioner, whose duty it was to have charge of school lands and the revenue derived from them. Although his reports usually gave some enumeration, a description of the schoolhouses, the number of teachers and their average salary, the number of school districts, the total amount spent for school purposes and how the money was obtained, the school fund commissioner had no supervisory duties over the schools as such.

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[1]Annual reports of the County Superintendent.

As Wayne County was organized in 1851, it evidently had a school fund commissioner from that time until 1858,[1] when the office of County Superintendent was created by law.[2] The first man to serve in that capacity in Wayne County was George Wright, according to an old teacher's certificate issued to John H. Brooks in September of 1858. Most of the men who followed him in that office are given in the list presented in Table No. 12. The names of these superintendents were compiled from information given in the Historical and Biographical Record of Wayne and Appanoose Counties, from old school reports in the Iowa State Department of History and Archives in Des Moines, from similar records in the education library at the State University of Iowa, and from the annual reports of the County Superintendents. The list in the early years, however, is still slightly incomplete.

Reference has already been made to "politics" in the election of the County Superintendent, and several quotations and much statistical material from some of the early reports have been given in the preceding chapter. For some unknown reason, however, a written report from the County Superintendent of Wayne County appears very infrequently in the early school reports.

Salaries for the first years are not available, but the early superintendents were paid a certain sum per day. This was the case as late as 1870 and 1871, when Enos Rushton in his biennial report made the following statement:

> "In regard to County Superintendent's salary, I think they ought to receive four dollars per day for their services. In fact I do not think they would grow fat (financially) on five dollars per day."[3]

As time went on the salary was set at a certain sum per year. In 1915 the salary was set at $1500 per year by statutory provision[4] and was raised to $1800 per year by a similar measure.[5]

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[1]Prior to 1851 the county was joined to Appanoose, as already explained. In "An Abstract of the Report of School Fund Commissioners for the Period Commencing October 15, 1850, and Ending October 31, 1851" is included in a report of Wayne Co.

[2]Session Laws, Seventh General Assembly, Section 40, 1858.

[3]Enos Ruston, biennial report, 1870-1871.

[4]Session Laws, Thirty-fifth General Assembly, Chap. 107, Sec. 2.

[5]Session Laws, Thirty-ninth General Assembly, Chap. 112, Sec. 1.

Although one of the duties of the superintendent was to visit all the schools in the county, no provision was made for the expense thus incurred. The first superintendent to be given compensation for travel, according to the annual reports, was M. Jane Reddick, who in 1910 was allowed $57.53 for that purpose.[1]

After the year 1900, the County Superintendent's time began to be taken up more and more by routine office work, often to the detriment of the supervision of the schools. In 1907, M. Jane Reddick gave expression to this fact in her annual report as follows:

> "The office work requires so much time that with no help it is impossible to give the necessary amount of time to attend to actual school supervision."[2]

According to the records, the first County Superintendent to have money provided for an assistant was Anna King Pittard, who was allowed $360 for that purpose in 1914.[3] It was evidently recognized at that time that it was not a wise policy to hire a trained administrator and supervisor and have her spend a great share of her time doing clerical work which could be done just as well by a lower salaried helper.

All the people who held the office of County Superintendent were men until Carrie N. Goodell was elected in 1895 to succeed C. A. Niday, who is now engaged in farming near Seymour. Since the coming of women into the office at that time, no men have served as County Superintendent until the election of Charles N. Elmore, who took office in 1936, following the three year term of Ioel Kern. The change in method of election[4] in 1915 seems to have made no change in the procedure of choosing women in preference to men.

During the First World War, Jennie L. Clark held office and was often requested to obtain information for the government by means of questionaries sent home to the parents through the medium of the children. After the war, Iowa had discovered some arresting facts concerning the education of the men who were drafted, and a definite campaign was put on to improve the schools in trying to get better attendance and scholarship while Ava Amenell was in office from 1918 to 1927.[5]

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[1]Annual reports of the County Superintendent, 1886-1910.

[2]M. Jane Reddick in annual report of Co. Supt., 1907.

[3]Op. Cit. 1896-1914.

[4]Session Laws, Thirty-fifth General Assembly, Chap. 107, Sec. 1.

[5]Ava Amenell, Corydon, Iowa. Personal letter, July, 1940.

It was also during this period that the movement for consolidation began, which has already been treated and which was strongly supported by Miss Amenell.

In a study of this kind it seems impractical to try to tell just what each superintendent attempted to do for the betterment of the schools. As might be expected, some evidently served better than others. Although no person who has served as County Superintendent of Wayne County has become famous or has made a meteoric rise in the field of education, most of the people who have held the office have been honest, diligent, conscientious workers who have attempted to improve the schools as much as they could with the limited funds and facilities at their disposal. Reference has already been made to the teachers' institutes, to attempt to require more training for teachers, to demonstrations for improvement in teaching made by extension workers of the Iowa State Teachers College, to the county-wide remedial reading program, and to the movement for consolidation. Every movement or program for the improvement of education was either initiated or strongly encouraged by the County Superintendents.

Table No. 12

NAMES OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS IN WAYNE COUNTY AND SALARIES[1]

Name	Year	Salary
George Wright	1858	
A. A. Powers	1861	
No report available	1865-1866	
W. H. H. Rogers	1867	
Enos Rushton	1868	
W. G. McColm	1872	
Wm. Dotts	1873	
J. W. Walker	1875	
J. H. Ware	1877-1881	
J. D. Johnston	1881-1883	
J. S. Shepherd	1883-1885	
J. W. Hook	1885-1889	$1200
J. M. M. Conner	1889-1890	$1168
C. A. Niday	1890-1895	$998-$1252
Carrie M. Goodell	1895-1899	$1240-$1228
Inez F. Kelso	1899-1901	$1244-$1232
Maud Elmore	1901-1907	$1216-$1250
M. Jane Reddick	1907-1910	$1276-$1250
Anna King Pittard	1910-1915	$1250-
Jennie L. Clark	1916-1918	$1453-$1500
Ava Amenell	1918-1927	$1536-$1800
Leah Trobridge	1927-1933	$1800-
Icel Kern	1933-1936	$1800-
Chas. N. Elmore	1936-1945	$1800-
B. C. Barron	1946-1949	not listed
William A. Tock	1949-1952	
Gerald Dunsmore	1952-	

[1] Iowa Educational Directories and annual reports of the County Superintendents.

Chapter IV

THE TOWN SCHOOLS

Besides the rural and consolidated schools there are eight schools in incorporated towns having independent school districts. The writer will attempt to give a brief sketch of the history of each.

Allerton

Twenty years after the beginnings of Corydon and its selection as the county seat, a new town was begun to the southwest of it that later was to become one of its strongest rivals for trade and for the county seat. Allerton is supposed to have the distinction of being a town made to order. When the Kansas City division of the Rock Island Railroad had been completed, it was decided to make a station a certain distance from Lineville. The railroad authorities bought 160 acres of land as did also Judge Aller of Leavenworth, who was one of the magnates of the road. It was agreed that Judge Aller and the company were to be partners in the profitable business of building a town which was to be named in honor of the judge, "Aller Town" or Allerton.[1]

The railroad was completed in the latter part of 1870, the first train passing through Wayne County in the spring of 1871. That same year the first house in the prospective town was built by John Howard. The village grew rapidly and at the end of the first year the population was above 200. The advertising of the railroad gave impetus to a rather short lived boom, and in 1872 lots sold for the highest prices in Allerton's history. There came then a time of reaction, but after a period of a few years the town settled down to a rather steady growth.[2]

In the year 1869, shortly before the birth of the town of Allerton, the pioneer settlers built a schoolhouse one mile east of the present site of the Standard Oil Station located on the main street of the town. Miss Roxy Everett was the first teacher here. In later years, the school building was moved, and at present is known as the Collathump Schoolhouse.

When Allerton was in the process of early development, the children were sent to this district school east of the town; but the population increased so fast that the school was soon overcrowded, and in 1873 the first school in the town was started, in the upper room of a building that stood on the present site of Bracewell's service station.[3]

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[1] Biographical and Historical Record of Wayne and Appanoose Counties, Iowa, and the Corydon Times Republican, September 28, 1939.

[2] Ibid.

[3] Harold W. Dougherty. Unpublished manuscript. Winifred Conklin, Allerton. Personal interview. May, 1940.

The first teachers were Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Shuster, who were followed in 1874 and 1875 by Mr. R. B. Sigafoose and Miss Fay DeSilva.[1] In 1876 a new three story brick school building was erected south and west of the present business district, at a cost of $9,000. There were two rooms on the first floor, two on the second, and a large assembly room with a recitation room adjoining, occupied the third floor. For some years the school bore the distinctive name of "The Allerton Normal and Graded School". The reason for the name was that the school was graded, a matter of some pride in 1876, and in the new quarters additional courses were added for those who desired to teach. Just when the high school was established is not known, but the first class was graduated from what was probably a two year course in 1883. This building erected in 1876, served the community for nearly twenty years, then an addition was built at a cost to the district of $6,000.[2]

On February 14, 1900, the janitor, A. M. Duncan, discovered a blaze in the basement of the school building. The fire could not be controlled, and the next day the "Allerton News" printed the following story of the disaster which had occurred:

School House Burned

"The alarm of fire yesterday morning about 10 o'clock drew our people to the school in large numbers. Smoke was issuing from the building in dense volumes, and heroic efforts were being made to quench the flames. The weather was bitter cold and one's effort was hampered to a great extent by that fact. But it was soon seen that all efforts with the facilities at command were unavailing. The children and teachers were all safely on the outside and a great number of the pupils saved their books and belongings, while others failed to secure theirs. The pupils in one of the primary rooms were quietly told to secure their books and march out, which they did, and the teacher followed with the wraps, hoods, caps, etc.

It took but a few minutes to empty the building, and a good many of the personal belongings of the pupils were saved by others and taken to various places in the vicinity. The fire lasted for a couple of hours when part of the west wall of the front fell with a crash and the south wall of the rear part followed shortly after.

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[1] The Allertonian, Allerton, Ia. High School Annual, 1927.

[2] Harold W. Dougherty, Allerton, Iowa. Unpublished manuscript. Winifred Conklin, Allerton, Iowa. Personal interview, May, 1940. The Allertonian, High School Annual, 1927.

The loss is complete, the furniture, piano, organs, gymnasium, and a magnificent general and reference library---all were destroyed. The origin of the fire is said to have been from one of the pipes leading from the furnace which carried the hot air from the furnace for heating the rooms. The blaze was discovered by the janitor, A. M. Duncan, who tried heroicly to put it out before it gained headway. Help was called in before the alarm was given, but it was soon found to be beyond their control, and the work was given to empty the building and the fire alarm sounded."[1]

The fire did not cause a total loss to the district, however, because the building was insured for $7,500. The school board met the same day and decided school should continue. The high school met in the opera house, and the elementary grades met in the several churches which were all freely offered to the school board for use in this emergency.[2]

Plans were soon made to rebuild, and in order to avoid wasteful delay in waiting for a school election to vote for bonds, and in order that money might be available to start building at once, several public spirited citizens signed promissory notes to get the necessary funds. These men were later reimbursed when bonds were voted. That same year a new building was completed at a cost of $25,000.00. Although this building has undergone some changes, it is still in use and houses both the elementary grades and the high school.[3]

In 1911 the school became fully accredited and the name was changed to the Allerton Public School. Soon after, the rooms were rearranged to provide for the teaching of manual training and home economics, courses which were initiated at that time. The normal training course was added in 1913. At this time the school came into possession of a phonograph, and Allerton employed a music instructor to teach music both in the elementary grades and in high school.[4]

Since 1920 the following courses have been added to the curriculum: physical training in 1923-24, home making in 1926-27, and the kindergarten in 1937. The gymnasium was erected in 1926-27, at a cost of approximately $20,000, and for several years was considered by many the best in the county. In 1926-27 the grounds were extended, even so there is only one block for grounds and buildings.[5]

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1 The Allerton News. February 15, 1940. Reprint from the issue of Allerton News of February 15, 1900.

2 Ibid. Mrs. Otto Smith. Personal interview. Allerton, Iowa, May 1940.

3 James Bracewell, Allerton, Ia. Personal interview, May, 1940.

4 Harold W. Dougherty. Unpublished manuscript. Allerton, Ia.

5 The Allertonian. Allerton, Iowa. High School Annual, 1927. James Dougherty. Unpublished Manuscript. Allerton, Iowa

Table No. 13 below shows that Allerton lost enrollment from 1920 until about 1945. Since that date it has climbed to almost its peak reached in 1920.

Table No. 13

ENROLLMENT IN ALLERTON SCHOOLS[1]

Year	H. S.	Elementary	Total
1910-1911	126	140	266
1915-1916	119	196	315
1925-1926	104	----	----
1930-1931	133	175	308
1931-1932	145	175	320
1932-1933	139	170	309
1933-1934	125	123	248
1934-1935	120	112	232
1935-1936	115	124	239
1936-1937	107	110	217
1937-1938	108	105	213
1938-1939	107	104	211
1939-1940	106	96	202
1940-1941	120	122	242
1941-1942	99	119	218
1942-1943	93	94	187
1943-1944	83	104	187
1944-1945	92	95	187
1945-1946	101	109	210
1946-1947	119	107	226
1947-1948	108	126	234
1948-1949	101	131	232
1949-1950	100	126	226
1950-1951	90	180	270
1951-1952	91	177	268
1952-1953	94	178	272
1953-1954	95	190	285
1954-1955	102	186	288
1955-1956	101	209	310

The high school enrollment for the year 1939-1940 was 106, with ninety-six in the elementary grades, all under fourteen teachers. Only one of the elementary pupils was from outside the school district, but in high school sixty-three, or well over one-half, were tuition students; Allerton received $4,136.40 for tuition. There was no tax levy for the schoolhouse fund, for the district has no bonded indebtedness. The general fund amounted to $14,000 and the tax millage was 28.36, with an actual property valuation in the district of $493,580.[2]

In 1955-56 the school had an enrollment of 310. Of this number 209 were elementary and 101 were high school. The total assessed evaluation of the district was $592,320. The cost of operating the school in this year was $92,810.00. The mills necessary to operate were 53.98.[3]

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1 Annual reports of the County Superintendent.

2 Annual report of the County Superintendent, 1939.

3. Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

The men who have served the Allerton Schools as superintendents since 1886 are as follows:[1]

Name	Date	Salary
George W. Cullison	Unknown	
Schootz (first name??)		
A. B. Warner	(known to be Sept. in 1883)	$800
G.G. Lehmer	until 1886	$840
G. N. Holiday	1886-1891	$720-$768
J. F. Holiday	1891-1907	$600-$1300
Geo. H. Ballard	1907-1911	$1000-$1925
Harry H. Huffman	1911-1915	$110-$1300
Arthur L. Lyon	1915-1917	$1200-$1250
G. L. Hicks	1917-1918	$1200-
C. B. Hightower	1918-1920	$1600-$1800
Oscar G. Puckett	1920-1933	$2000-$2520
Forest P. Hagan	1933-1946	----------
Wm. F. Clifton	1946-1947	
John H. King	1947-1950	
W. V. Starry	1950-	

On all reports of salaries of superintendents where two salaries are given, the first is the beginning salary and the latter the highest salary received.

Clio

Clio, a town of approximately 200 population, lies on the Rock Island Railroad line between Lineville and Allerton in the northeastern part of Grand River Township. The town was platted April 16, 1874, by J. W. Tabler, although there had been a post office as early as 1856. The first store was opened in 1875 and the Methodists built a church in 1877.[2]

For some time most of the children attended a rural district school which had already been established a mile and a quarter distant. In 1877 a subscription school was conducted in a residence which stood just west of the present main street of the town. The next school, also a subscription school, was held in the Christian Church building.[3] An independent district was formed, and the first public schoolhouse built about 1881, south of shere the Methodist Church now stands. Frost Purcell, Lydia Gardner, and Lillian Souder were among the early teachers in this school. About 1886 the schoolhouse was moved to its present location behind the Rand Lumber Company.

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1. Annual reports of the County Superintendent. Mrs. Ott Smith, Allerton, Ia. Personal interview, May, 1940.

2. Biographical and Historical Record of Wayne and Appanoose Counties, Iowa. The Corydon Times Republican, September 28, 1939.

3. M. R. Souder, Clio, Ia. Personal interview, May, 1940.

Sometime after it was moved to its present location, the lumber yard enlarged its building in such a way that sunlight rarely enters the south windows of the schoolhouse.[1]

The present school building which is located in the northeast part of town just off the highway which leads to Allerton, was built about 1894-1895, and an addition of two rooms was built on the south side of it in 1912. The first person to act as superintendent in this new building was Owen Tabler, and some subjects higher than the eighth grade were begun to be taught. About 1908 during the time that W. M. Frame was superintendent, the schools were graded up to the tenth grade and certificates of attainment of the tenth grade were given on completion of the course of study then offered. Work toward four years of high school was begun with the superintendency of John G. Hurwitz in 1919. The four year high school was approved for tuition in 1922, during the superintendency of O. N. LaFollette. Mr. LaFollette also started a campaign for a consolidated school, but it was unsuccessful.[2]

The school had no gymnasium until Paul E. Wallace became superintendent in 1933; plans were then made to build, and with the aid of W. P. A. funds and labor a building was erected, giving facilities for the students to participate in basketball. Clio had both a boys' and girls' team. Neither the town nor the school has a pressure system to provide running water, so there are no modern plumbing fixtures in the school. Water, if used, in the building, must be carried from the well on the grounds. There is no central heating system, each room being heated by a stove. Equipment in the school is mostly old and includes some of the old style desks built to accommodate two or three pupils.

Since the coming of the present superintendent, Earl E. Hall, over $300 has been spent on books, and all the books in the library have been marked and catalogued according to the Dewey decimal system. There are now about 770 books for the high school and 400 for the elementary grades. A student council of five members has been organized for the high school and is now functioning effectively. This year for the first time, the students have printed a high school annual with a sale of sixty copies at thirty-five cents each. The high school has a commercial department including bookkeeping, shorthand, and typewriting. No homemaking or home economics is taught and agriculture is taught in alternate years. Music is taught in all the grades of the school, including instrumental for those who desire it, and have their own instruments; no band or orchestra has as yet been organized.[3]

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[1] Mrs. George Cook, Ray Shriver, Mr. Souder, Clio, Iowa. Personal interviews, May, 1940.

[2] Ray Shriver, Mr. Souder, Clio, Iowa. Personal interviews. May, 1940.

[3] Earl E. Hall, Clio, Iowa. Personal interview, May, 1940.

For the year 1938-39, Clio had an enrollment of thirty-four in the high school and fifty-nine in the elementary grades, with an average daily attendance of 32.1 and 53.6 respectively. Attendance from outside the district was twenty-four in the high school, or over two thirds of the enrollment. Sixteen pupils in the elementary school were from outside the district, making a total of forty for which the school received $2,269.25 in tuition. June 30, 1939, Clio had in indebtedness of $2,304.50,[1] in interest bearing warrants, but no bonded indebtedness. The tax levy was listed as 36.85 mills with a total property valuation in the district of $135,706, the lowest valuation of any town in the county. The number of teachers employed is six.[2]

The people who have served Clio in the capacity of superintendent are as follows:[3]

Name	Date	Salary
Owen Tabler	unknown	----------
W. M. Frame	until 1910	$560
I. W. Gard	1910-1911	$560
A. B. Wimmer	1911-1913	$640-$760
Everett H. Huffman	1913-1915	$720-$765
W. L. Brinks	1915-1916	$640
W. E. Wellons	1916-1917	$800
Clara E. Waln	1917-1918	$690
O. W. Nickel	1918-1919	$800
J. G. Hurwitz	1919-1920	$1000
O. N. LaFollette	1920-1922	$1200-$1477
Frank L. McCreary	1922-1924	$1400-$1710
Elmer R. Burch	1924-1927	$1700
Theo. M. Cook	1927-1930	not listed
G. C. Clemmer	1930-1933	
Paul E. Wallace	1933-1937	
Paul E. Davis	1937-1938	
Earl E. Hall	1938-1941	
Irvin K. Van Fleet	1941-1943	
R. H. Hughson	1943-1944	

Table No. 14 on the following page will give an idea of the enrollment in the Clio Schools for a number of years. The total enrollment was higher in 1925-1926 and 1930-1931 than it has been since. The average enrollment for the last ten years in 83.4 and the enrollment last year was above that average. Although the population of the town has dropped from 299 to 200, or nearly one-third, in the last twenty years, perhaps the school can attract enough students from the surrounding districts to keep its attendance up.

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[1] Iowa Educational Directory 1939-40 and Annual Report of the County Superintendent, 1939.

[2] Annual report of the County Superintendent, 1939.

[3] Iowa Educational Directories published by the State Dept.

Table No. 14

SHOWING ENROLLMENT IN CLIO SCHOOLS [1]

Year	H. S.	Elementary	Total
1910-1911	--	--	63
1915-1916	--	--	63
1920-1921	20	70	90
1925-1926	35	65	100
1930-1931	37	70	107
1931-1932	39	42	81
1932-1933	33	42	75
1933-1934	44	42	86
1934-1935	40	39	79
1935-1936	36	41	77
1936-1937	41	30	71
1937-1938	33	47	80
1938-1939	35	41	76
1939-1940	34	59	93
1940-1941	29	41	70
1941-1942	19	39	58
1942-1943	23	27	50
1943-1944	21	30	51
1944-1945	--	28	28
1945-1946	--	35	35
1946-1947	--	30	30
1947-1948	--	27	27
1948-1949	--	28	28
1949-1950	--	19	19
1950-1951	--	23	23
1951-1952	--	16	16
1952-1953	--	17	17
1953-1954	--	15	15
1954-1955	--	17	17
1955-1956	--	15	15

Since the foregoing pages concerning the school at Clio were written, considerable change has come about. The high school was discontinued in 1944. Since that time it has operated as a village elementary school. The high school students in that area now attend either the Allerton or Lineville Schools.

In 1953 the old frame building was torn down and a new one story building was erected. At this writing they have a very beautiful building which is well equipped. The Board of Education is made up of young men who are anxious to provide the best for their children.[2]

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[1] Annual reports of the County Superintendent.

[2] Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

Corydon

After the organization of the county and the selection of the present site as the county seat had been completed, Judge Anderson named it Corydon in honor of his former home, Corydon, Indiana.[1]

The first district court in the county was held in the spring of 1852 in a cabin still under construction and as there was little furniture, a keg sufficed for the judge's desk. A court house and jail were constructed about 1856.[2] The early development of Corydon depended largely on the fact that it was the county seat, for it had no railroad to stimulate its growth until 1879, but its growth from then on was rapid.

The first schoolhouse in Corydon was built in the spring of 1854 and was located on the southeast corner of the lot on which the W. G. Riley residence now stands. It was built of logs and was approximately eighteen by twenty feet in size. The door was to the south and faced the street. There was one window each on the east and west ends, and one to the north. The logs were flattened a little on the inside and the spaces between were "chinked" and plastered, but the interior of the house was neigher lathed nor plastered. A huge stove, which stood nearly in the middle of the room, was used to heat the building.[3]

The first term of school was taught in the summer of 1854 by Miss Mary Lancaster, and the winter term of 1854-1855 was taught by Mr. James Nelson. Because the log house needed repairs and because the number of pupils had increased so rapidly, the next school was taught in a frame structure located on the ground now occupied by the Mrs. G. W. Shelton residence. Mr. William Miles, father of Hon. Lewis Miles, taught the school for the winter term of 1856-1857, and the following summer term was taught by Lizzie Richardson, who later became the wife of Dr. Everett. In 1857-1858, Wm. Boyle, with Miss Ruth Boyle as assistant, taught the winter term.[4]

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[1] Biographical and Historical Record of Wayne and Appanoose Counties.

[2] Ibid.

[3] James S. Whittaker, early Wayne County Teacher in the Corydon Times Republican, September 28, 1939.

[4] Ibid.

The teacher for the summer term of 1858 was S. L. Glasgow, who at the outbreak of the civil war entered the army, and who later served as United States Counsel at Glasgow, Scotland. The following winter term was taught by James S. Whittaker assisted by his wife.[1]

In 1858 a new frame building was erected on the Riley block where the old log schoolhouse had stood. As the number of pupils increased, conditions in the school became crowded, and about 1870 two rooms were added to the structure, making it a four-room building. This new addition later became a part of the present Riley residence.[2]

Some of the well known teachers in the period from 1854-1880 were Miss A. Reynolds, John Madden, Nina Reynolds, Mary Reynolds, Lewis Miles, Jr., Mollie Logan, Grace Morely, William Dotts, S. W. Miles, Mrs. E. A. King, Jennie Burton, Geo. W. Sampson, J. W. Cozad, Lina Morrison, Mary Sharp, Nimrod Graybill, David Kirk, and Edward Buck.[3]

Until the year 1879 there had been no training beyond the eighth grade, with the exection of a course in mathematics; but with the advent of G. W. Sampson in that year the school was graded and a high school course was begun.[4] Two years of work were given at first, but by 1884 a four year course was offered.[5]

After the beginning of the high school, more room was needed and a campaign was launched for a new building. The issue was decided on March 8, 1880, when with only five opposed, 122 citizens of the town voted in favor of a $7,000 bond issue for a new schoolhouse. Evidently the school board had a surplus on hand, because it passed a motion of April 19, to build a new schoolhouse costing $13,000. Plans for the new building were furnished by C. A. Deitrich of Ottumwa, and advertisements were made for bids. Alexis Mardis, a contractor of good repute had the low bid of $11,150 and was awarded the contract. Although not ready for occupancy at the opening of school in September, the building was completed that fall.

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1 James S. Whittaker, early Wayne County teacher in the Corydon Times Republican, September 28, 1939.

2 Ibid. H. B. Bracewell, Unpublished manuscript. Corydon, Iowa, 1935.

3 Records of the secretary of the school board, Corydon,-Ia. H. B. Bracewell, Unpublished manuscript, Corydon, Ia., 1935.

4 Mr. Sampson in the year 1894-1895 began a long and distinguished service as a member of the faculty of the Iowa State Normal School, now Iowa State Teachers College.

5 H. B. Bracewell, Unpublished manuscript, Corydon, Ia., 1935.

The site of this building was the south half of the present school grounds. The old schoolhouse and grounds were sold for $800, when this new building was completed.[1]

At first, Principal Sampson taught the four year high school alone, and supervised the lower grades. Mrs. E. A. King assisted his successor, C. K. Sturges for one Year, but then the board went back to the old plan of one teacher for the high school. In the fall of 1885 Superintendent C. W. Martindale was assisted by Mr. McBroom, and the high school from then on had at least two teachers. In the year 1889, Louise Begeman became superintendent and served until 1895 when he was succeeded by P. S. Dorland. Mr. Begeman later joined the faculty of Parsons College at Fairfield, Iowa, and still later became head of the department of physics at Iowa State Teachers College. After two years Mr. Dorland, was followed by Charles Carter, who after six years as head of Corydon Schools, like Begeman, became an instructor at Parsons College.[2]

Early high school graduation classes were small. During the four years from 1887 to 1890 there was a total of only nineteen graduates, which is not quite an average of five per year. In the next ten years, there were 103 graduates, which makes an average of 10.3 per year. In the ten year period beginning with 1910, the average number of graduates was 23.6 per year, which was more than double the average of the previous ten years.[3]

During the superintendency of Charles Carter from 1897 to 1903, the school year was lengthened from eight months to nine, and the school was accredited by the State University of Iowa. Improvements were made in the character of text books used, and many books were added to the libraries. Mr. Carter emphasized education beyond the high school, which resulted in a higher percentage of graduates attending colleges and universities, where it appears they made excellent records.[4]

In the decade beginning with 1890 the population of Corydon had increased from 962 to 1477. The schools were crowded, and the building erected in 1880 failed to properly accommodate all the pupils. Therefore a campaign was begun to build a separate building for the high school. Although it took some time for its realization, the structure was finally erected in 1905 at a cost of $13,676. Being staunchly and attractively built of brick with white stone trim it was then one of the best buildings for school purposes in southern Iowa.[5]

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1 Records of the secy. of the school baard, Corydon, Iowa.

2 Annual reports of the Co. Supt. H. B. Bracewell, Unpublished manuscript, Corydon, Iowa, 1935.

3 Annual reports of the County Superintendent.

4 Charles Carter, Parsons College, Fairfield, Iowa, Personal letter, June 18, 1940.

5 The Wayne County Democrat, Corydon, Ia. Oct. 10, 1905.

This building still serves the town, housing the kindergarten and the first six elementary grades.

With increased facilities for accommodating pupils resulting from the construction of a new high school building, Corydon put on a definite campaign to gain students from outside the district who would pay tuition. Friday, August 25, 1905, the Wayne County Democrat carried the following school announcement:

> "If you desire to send your child to a graded school the coming term, it will be well to bear in mind that the Corydon Public Schools are the only schools in the county which fully prepare its graduates to enter the universities. It is a fully accredited school. That of itself is a worthy recommendation of the thoroughness of the work done in the Corydon Schools. The buildings and grounds are not only the best in Wayne County but rank favorably with any in southern Iowa, while the handsome new high school building has no peer in this part of the state.
>
> The school term begins Monday, September 4, and continues 36 weeks."

In September of 1905, the enrollment of the Corydon Public Schools reached a new peak, 427 for both grades and high school combined.[1]

W. L. Pugh was superintendent of schools during the construction of the high school building in 1905, and his successor, J. C. McGlade, came in 1907 and served until 1911, when he was succeeded by Harry D. Kles. In 1916 came John B. Parker during whose superintendency a campaign was begun for another school building, because of the rapid increase in enrollment.[2] The proposition was submitted to the citizens of the community who voted it down. But when Lee E. Easter became superintendent in 1918, a very earnest attempt was made to educate the citizenry to the need for a new high school building before another vote on the question was taken.

When school opened in September, 1919, the superintendent announced that there were over 500 pupils enrolled and that there were 225 of them in high school; he made the following statement in the Corydon Times Republican:

> "The attendance this year is so great that the little house must be used for a recitation room. It is hoped that Corydon can have a new school building next year. A new building or the present building enlarged is an absolute necessity if our schools are to maintain the leadership in this part of Iowa which they have held so long."[2]

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[1] The Wayne County Democrat, Corydon, Ia. Sept. 22, 1905.

[2] Corydon Times Republican, Corydon, Ia. Sept. 11, 1919.

Pamphlets entitled, "The Issue Before the People of Corydon-What Will You Do With It?", were circulated in the town and bore a description of the proposed high school building and also gave as many arguments as possible to convince the people of the need for such a building. The newspapers aided in the campaign. The Corydon Times Republican of March 18, 1920, carried a news item stating that the Corydon School Board had been petitioned by a group of citizens to submit the proposition to the voters of the community. It also quoted a statement on the subject issued by Lee E. Easter, Superintendent of Schools, which reads as follows:

"The board of School Directors for Corydon Independent School District has just received a petition to call a special election for the purpose of voting bonds to erect and equip a new high school building.

The high school pupils rejoice especially, for they realize keenly their present need.

The parents rejoice, for they know that if their children do not have now the same advantages as children of other communities they will be handicapped for the remainder of their lives. They know that every year the building of a high school is postponed, over 220 years of the lives of our young people will have been lived under inferior advantages.

The people in and around Corydon rejoice, for they can soon say with pride that it is a privilege rather than a handicap to be able to rear one's children in Corydon.

The taxpayers rejoice, because a new high school building will increase the value of their holdings for more than the amount of taxes paid.

The investor in city and rural property rejoices, for a high school building means money in his pocket.

The business man rejoices, for he knows from experience that nothing stimulates business more than good school facilities.

We all rejoice, because no money spent in advertising brings in as great financial returns as taxes invested in the schools.

Even the Chronic "Kicker" rejoices, because he has something new to kick."[1]

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[1] Corydon Times Republican, Corydon, Ia., March 18, 1920.

The campaign was launched with vigor; more articles appeared, appealing especially to the pride of the citizens in their school. The school had been accredited by the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges since 1908, and a strong argument was that it would lose this distinction unless a new building were constructed. The election was held on May 27, 1920. The women were the deciding element, because 187 men voted in favor of the $150,000 bond issue and 191 against it. The vote of the women was 142 in favor and 112 opposed.[1]

Even though bonds had been voted, the new building was not to become a reality at once. This was a time when the high prices of post war days were beginning to decline, and the school board felt justified in rejecting all bids in February of 1921. They decided to wait until later when it might be possible to get a more favorable bid because of an expected lowered price of building materials.[2] A satisfactory bid was finally obtained, and the building was constructed in 1923, but it was not until February of 1924 that it was occupied by the high school pupils. It was then the most modern high school building in the county.

In 1935 the old building erected in 1880 was razed and part of the material used to construct a tunnel between the elementary and the high school buildings by the use of W. P. A. funds and labor. The heating plant in the high school building was changed to low pressure, so that it could be used as a central heating system for both buildings. The pupils who had occupied the old schoolhouse were housed in the other two buildings. The seventh and eighth grades were put into the high school building and their classes run on the same time schedule as the high school.

With the coming into the superintendency of Ward T. North in 1925, the teaching of reading was improved by the addition of reading material until now each of the first six grades has at least six sets of different readers. An unusual thing in the teaching of reading is that classes in it are not taught beyond the sixgh grade, because the superintendent is of the opinion that the child will have acquired the reading adaptation before he enters the seventh grade.

The housing of the seventh and eighth grades in the high school building gives them opportunities to take manual training and home economics and all of the members of these two grades have classes in one of these courses.

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[1] The Wayne County Democrat, Corydon, Ia., June 3, 1920.

[2] The Wayne County Democrat, Corydon, Ia., Feb. 17, 1921.

The high school offers a full course in agriculture under the Smith-Hughes act and includes such subjects as farm shop, stock, farm management, and crops. The teaching of agriculture under the Smith-Hughes act was begun in 1928-1929 and the adult evening school, now held in connection with it, was inaugurated the following year. A chapter of the Future Farmers of America was organized in 1930. The school has competed quite satisfactorily with other schools in contests in judging and in giving demonstrations. In 1939 part-time evening classes for older boys were started.

The school has an active Smith-Hughes home making department. Women of the community attend the adjul evening school classes in home making at the same time that the men attend classes in agriculture. Evening classes for women, which began in 1930, are taught on some practical phase of home making one evening per week for a period of ten weeks; the eleventh week a basket dinner and program are usually given, which is participated in by both men and women.

The school as a whole has a multitude of adtivities. In order to schedule all of them, Mr. North in 1939-1940 added another period to the school day, giving two activity periods in a nine period day. A full program of athletics including basketball, football, and track is scheduled besides the regular physical training classes. In order that more people might attend football games, the business men of Corydon in 1938 contributed several hundred dollars to construct a lighted playing field on the old fair grounds. It was named "Saling Field" in honor of Corydon's Olympic champion, George Saling.

In music there is both agirls' and a boys' glee club, a mixed chorus, a band, and an orchestra. Besides this pupils can make arrangements for private lessons in both instrumental and vocal music. The school acquired a radio in 1937-1938 which is often used in teaching music.

The dramatics department always produces a junior and a senior play and ten one act plays during the year. Last year a course in speech was added to the curriculum.

The school lacks training in art, with the exception of the little that is done by the regular elementary teachers. It is one of Mr. North's ambitions to have a full time art instructor as soon as he can arrange it.

Although the seniors during the past few years have had the privilege of listening in on the vocation broadcasts from Station WOI at Ames, not much is offered in the school in the way of vocational guidance. There is also little or no guidance available to the elementary pupils unless they make an effort to get it themselves. Even w th these conditions, Corydon is not more retarded in this respect than any of the other town schools.

Corydon High School is the only school in the county to be accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. As stated before, it has had this distinction continously since 1908.[1]

Of the graduates of the school, approximately twenty-five per cent go on for more training in college. Mr. North has tried to arrange his curriculum with the seventy-five per cent in mind who do not attend institutions of higher learning. In this he has been rather seriously handicapped by lack of funds, but nevertheless the school affords some choice of subjects.

The normal training department since its organization in 1918, has averaged approximately fifteen graduates per year. The commercial department was started in the fall of 1923. Shorthand, typewriting, bookkeeping, and commercial law are taught. The department is well equipped with good typewriters, and the students have won their share of the county contests and have also gained honors in the state contests.

The Corydon schools during 1938-1939 had an enrollment of 215 in high school and 310 in the elementary grades. The number of teachers employed was twenty-three, fourteen being in the high school. Of the students enrolled ninety-seven in the high school and sixteen in the elementary department came from outside the district. The total amount received for tuition was $8,791.56. The total bonded indebtedness, the highest in the county by far, was $90,200 with $1,151.79 worth of interest bearing warrants outstanding. The actual valuation of the property in the district, also the highest in the county, was $930,543. The tax millage, exceeded only by Lineville, was 37.70.[2]

As will be shown by Table No. 15 on the following page, the enrollment has shown a general upward trend through the years. Although a very evident slump took place about 1925-1926, both the high school and the elementary school have increased, the former showing the larger growth. The population of Corydon, contrary to most of the towns, has increased.

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[1] Proceedings of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

[2] Annual report of the County Superintendent.

Table No. 15

SHOWING ENROLLMENT IN CORYDON SCHOOLS[1]

Year	H. S.	Elementary	Total
1900-1901	110	256	366
1910-1911	107	325	432
1920-1921	224	390	614
1925-1926	180	210	390
1930-1931	150	275	425
1931-1932	160	286	446
1932-1933	161	299	460
1933-1934	180	315	495
1935-1936	217	285	502
1936-1937	210	320	430
1937-1938	210	300	510
1938-1939	208	280	488
1939-1940	215	310	525
1940-1941	207	288	495
1941-1942	198	285	483
1942-1943	171	256	427
1943-1944	167	274	441
1944-1945	170	285	455
1945-1946	182	289	471
1946-1947	203	295	498
1947-1948	202	326	528
1948-1949	197	321	518
1949-1950	205	311	516
1950-1951	218	338	556
1951-1952	227	390	617
1952-1953	230	375	605
1953-1954	225	388	613
1954-1955	212	401	613
1955-1956	224	388	612

In 1955-1956 the evaluation of the district was $1,391,668. It cost in this same year $143,943.96 to operate the school. This money was received from the following sources: $59,113.29 district tax, $1,295.37 semi annual appropriations, $2,614.24 federal aid, $9,366.64 general state aid, $4928.08 transportation aid, $3,959.17 supplemental state aid, $68,671.59 tuition, and $11,132.37 transportation for tuition students. The school carries a reserve of about $80,000.

A gymnasium and auditorium was built in 1950 at a cost of $108,000.00. During the summer of 1956 extensive interior improvements were made costing about $15,000.00.

The tax rate is now 50.130 mills.[2]

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[1] Annual reports of the County Superintendent.

[2] Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

The men who have served as superintendents of the Corydon Schools are as follows:[1]

Name	Years	Salary
G. W. Sampson	1879-1883	
C. K. Sturges	1883-1885	$800-
C. W. Martindale	1885-1889	$800-$950
Louis Begeman	1889-1895	$800-$1000
P. S. Dorland	1895-1897	$1000-
Charles Carter	1897-1903	$800-$1350
W. L. Pugh	1903-1907	$1000-$1200
J. C. McGlade	1907-1911	$1100-$1500
Harry D. Kies	1911-1915	$1450-$1550
John B. Parker	1915-1918	$1300-$1700
Lee E. Easter	1918-1921	$1700-$2700
L. A. Blezek	1921-1925	$2600
Ward T. North	1925-1947	$2700
Gerald Bryan	1947-1956	
C. E. Streeter	1956-	

Humeston

Humeston is a pleasant country town of about 900 population lying in the northwestern part of the county on highway 65. It had its beginning when the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad was built south from Chariton in 1872. S. H. Mallory of Chariton selected the name of Humeston for the town in honor of Alva Humeston, Sr., early settler and highly respected citizen in Richman Township. In May of 1872, the town was platted and recorded, and its growth was rapid. The coming of a second railroad in 1880 caused something of a boom, and the population is said to have reached nearly a thousand; however, in 1885 it was recorded as being only 684 and as 945 in 1900.[2]

The first school in town was a private or select school taught by Etta Taylor in a room above one of the stores. Reverend Hoover, a Christian Minister, also taught a select school for some time, but most of the children during the early years of the town's history attended the nearest district school. By the year 1882 there was a demand for more adequate means of education, and an independent school district was created. A new frame schoolhouse was erected the following year at a cost of $3,500.[3]

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[1] Iowa Educational Directories published by the State Dept.

[2] Mrs. W. E. Berkey in The Times Republican, Corydon, Iowa, September 28, 1939. (Iowa Census Reports. Table 1.)

[3] Ibid. Miss Phebe B. King, Humeston, Ia. Personal interview, May, 1940

[illegible] in order are the following people [illegible] the early teachers were: [illegible] Mc. Shaw, Henrietta Foundstone [illegible] and [illegible].

[illegible] beginning early, with the teaching of [illegible] through the eighth grade. When a full year was [illegible] two, not just when it became [illegible] definitely known probably it was about [illegible].

The first superintendent in the new [illegible] was [illegible]. Following him came G. W. [illegible] then [illegible]. However, in the fall of 1888, J. P. Holiday became superintendent. He served until 1891, when he left to accept another [illegible] in the superintendency at Allerton [illegible]. Following Mr. Holiday came Mrs. Clara Grim, Olive Gelby, C. [illegible] Mabrite and [illegible] Kline, who came in [illegible] and remained until 1906. Then came Miss Inez Kelso, who had recently graduated from Iowa State University, and who was one of the outstanding figures in the history of Humeston Schools.

The turn of the century, the school house was no longer large enough to adequately house all of the pupils, and besides it needed extensive repairs and improvements. But several years were allowed to slip by before conditions could be improved. However, in 1907, under the superintendency of Miss Kelso, a campaign was launched for a new building. Petitions were circulated to have the question of a bond issue voted upon in a special election for that purpose. The Humeston New Era stated the issue before the public as follows:

> "Tomorrow (Thursday) afternoon, April 4, at one o'clock polls open at the city hall to decide whether the Independent District of Humeston shall build a new school house suitable to the needs of the community or continue the instruction in the old building which is a menace to health and a danger to the lives of the many in attendance during the year. It does not seem possible that anyone in the town of Humeston with so many churches, its well informed up-to-date and refined citizens of men and women could vote against a proposition to build an adequate building for the purpose of giving children--the coming generation--a better and really necessary place to pursue their studies which, in time, will entitle them to a place among the best of people."

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1 Miss Phebe H. King, Humeston, Ia., Personal interview, May 1940.

2 Mrs. George O. Gardner, Humeston, Ia., Personal interview, May, 1940.

3 Ibid.

4 Annual Reports to the County Superintendent

Mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers, do come to the polls tomorrow and show that your ideals are higher than dollars and cents by casting a vote in favor of a new schoolhouse."[1]

The next week the same newspaper carried an account of the voting, as follows:

"Perhaps there never was a time in the history of Humeston when there was so much enthusiasm shown and such a large vote polled as last Thursday when it was decided to bond the Independent District of Humeston in the needs of the district. It was carried by a good majority, there being only 27 tallied against and 333 for the proposition, giving a comfortable majority of seventy-nine over the necessary two-thirds of the votes cast.

One feature of the voting was that every lady marked the ballot correctly, while five or six of the manly kind made blunders which threw out their votes.[2]

The joy of the large delegation knew no bounds, and cheer upon cheer for the ladies who had so nobly assisted in procuring the children a new home rang through the city hall. A procession headed by the band marched through the streets bringing the good news to everyone in town and joy reigned suprene."[3]

The corner stone for the new building was laid with appropriate ceremonies on August 15, and on February 3, 1908, the pupils and teachers moved into what was at that time regarded as a fine school building, well suited to community needs.[4] It is the same one which is still used and houses both the elementary school and the high school; it is of two story and basement design and of brick, trimmed with stone, and compares favorably with buildings constructed about that time. It has been kept in rather good repair, with minor changes made during the years as they were found necessary.

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[1] The Humeston New Era, Humeston, Ia. April 3, 1907.

[2] The reader will recall that at that time men and women voted separately in school elections and women were not permitted to vote at all in general elections.

[3] The Humeston New Era, Humeston, Ia., April 10, 1909.

[4] Minutes of the secretary of the school board, May 15, 1907. Ibid., August 14, 1907, and February 5, 1907.

The school board and Humeston pursued the sound fiscal policy of having the bonds retired at the rate of $2,000 per year, so that the entire indebtedness would be paid off by 1918, and no cost of refinancing the structure would be incurred.[1]

The Humeston schools during recent years have experienced the same difficult times as the others in the county, for the period of crop failures struck as hard near Humeston, with its level, fertile farms, as anywhere in this area. Teachers' salaries along with the general budget were cut, much to the detriment of the school.

Last year, (1938-39) thirteen teachers were employed, and the high school enrollment was ninety-three, the elementary 154, with an average daily attendance of 76.3 and 148.4 respectively. Thirty-two of the ninety-three in high school, or over one-third, were tuition students from outside the district. The elementary school had only seven tuition pupils. The enrollment for a number of years is given in Table No. 16.

During the last few years there has been an increasing desire to offer vocational agriculture and home making under the Smith-Hughes Act, but the building lacked the proper facilities to carry on this type of program. There also was a desire on the part of those interested in athletics to have a large gymnasium with classrooms in it for some of the courses recently added to the curriculum. A petition was circulated asking for a vote on a proposal to issue bonds; although it was twice defeated, enough of the citizens finally voted in favor of a bond issue to bring the plans to completition.[2]

The new addition to the main building is still in the process of construction, but the gymnasium floor was completed early enough to be used during the basketball season of the past school year. There is room to seat approximately 1200 spectators around the playing floor and in the gallery. A stage is built on one side and will make dramatic production in the school easier than it has been in the past. There will also be rooms for manual training, vocational home making, and vocational agriculture. The size of the entire addition is 89 x 109 feet. The cost will be approximately $35,000, but only $16,000 in bonds were voted because it is a W. P. A. project.

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[1] Minutes of the secretary of the school board, Humeston, Iowa, May 15, 1907.

[2] Harold Erickson, Superintendent of Schools, Humeston, Iowa, Personal interview, May 2, 1940.

Table No. 16

SHOWING THE ENROLLMENT OF HUMESTON SCHOOLS[1]

Year	H.S.	Elementary	Total
1900-1901	---	---	246
1910-1911	47	203	250
1920-1921	145	235	380
1930-1931	99	150	249
1931-1932	100	136	236
1932-1933	98	142	240
1933-1934	96	148	244
1934-1935	94	148	242
1935-1936	95	131	226
1936-1937	81	157	238
1937-1938	90	169	259
1938-1939	80	165	245
1939-1940	93	154	247
1940-1941	107	166	273
1941-1942	97	149	246
1942-1943	97	136	233
1943-1944	78	129	207
1944-1945	78	125	203
1945-1946	83	129	212
1946-1947	75	115	190
1947-1948	78	150	228
1948-1949	92	129	221
1949-1950	81	148	229
1950-1951	85	177	262
1951-1952	88	161	249
1952-1953	81	178	259
1953-1954	86	190	276
1954-1955	92	171	263
1955-1956	91	176	267

Humeston district had no bonded indebtedness before recently voting bonds for the new building project. Last year the tax levy for schools was 28.02 mills, and the actual valuation of property in the district was $447,712.[2]

The Humeston Schools have a commercial department including typing and shorthand. No foreign languages are taught. A full time music teacher is employed to train a boys' glee club, a girls' glee club, a mixed chorus, and a band, but the school has no orchestra. There are no free text books furnished the students except the reference books in the school library. The school takes an active part in athletics. Besides having physical training classes for both boys and girls, a boys' team and a girls' team compete in basketball with other schools. The high school also has a football team.

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[1] Annual reports of the County Superintendent.

[2] Harold Erickson, Supt., Humeston, Ia. Personal Interview, May 2, 1940.

The following persons have served at the head of the Humeston Schools:[1]

Name	Years	Salary
G. W. Hine	until 1886	$600
Geo. M . M cBroom	1886-1887	$480
J. F. Holiday	1887-1891	$520-$600
Clara Grim	1891-1892	$765
Clara C. Goltry	1892-1894	$600
C. A. Ratcliffe	1894-1896	$600
G. A. Axline	1896-1903	$640-$1000
Inez F. Kelso	1903-1908	$900-$1000
Eanest Walker	1908-1909	$900
Ernest C. Coad	1909-1910	$1000
H. F..Young	1910-1911	$1000
Arthur L. Lyon	1911-1912	$1000-$1200
Floyd E. Bailey	1915-1918	$1125-$1300
J. G. Parisho	1918-1919	$1200
J. B. Clyde	1919-1920	$1700
Mrs. Keo A. Ninert	1920-1922	$1700-$2200
C. B. Youtz	1922-1923	$2000
M. J. Harkness	1923-1925	$2100
Paul A. Toegar	1925-1927	
A. R. Johnson	1927-1930	
Theo. M. Cook	1930-1939	
Harold Erickson	1939-1941	
H. E. Dow	1941-1946	
M. F . Latham	1946-1954	
Charles E. Streeter	1954-1956	
Carl Jensen	1956-	

Since the foregoing paragraphs were written, the Humeston Schools have built another addition to the building to more adequately house the vocational agriculture and home making departments, the music department, and to provide space for a very modern school lunch program.

The assessed valuation of the Humeston district is now $700,886. T he expenditure to operate in 1955-1956 was $89,059.58. This requires a tax levy of 53.678.[2]

[1] Data from the Iowa Educational Directories published by the State Department of Public Instruction.

[2] Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

Lineville

Lineville has the distinction of a town being partly in Iowa and partly in Missouri, but by far the larger share of this municipality lies in Iowa. With the differences which exist in the statutes of the two states, one can readily imagine what situations arise, as something might be entirely lawful in one place and be illegal and punishable by a fine only a few feet distant.

The town had its beginning when Alexander Falukner built and begun operating a store at this point in 1841. Other business establishments followed slowly, and the town was platted and recorded in March of 1858, but awaited its first real impetus to growth until the year 1871 when the railroad was completed.1

The first schoolhouse in Lineville, built about 1864, stood directly west of the present public square. The first teacher in this school was Mr. Lewis. Because the building was larger than needed, it was made to house a mercantile business, and in 1865 a one-room schoolhouse was built several blocks west of the present location of the public square. One of the first teachers in the one room school was E. S. Buffom, who was assisted by Miss Purcell. Other early teachers were Dave Belvel and Tom Butcher. By 1873 conditions had become too crowded in the one room schoolhouse, and a new building was erected in the northern part of town not far from the railroad track.2 This was a brick building of four rooms, only three being used during the first few years. Several years later a two room addition was made because of the increased enrollment, but the original building with additions served the community until 1915.3

The crude classification of pupils prevailing at the time in rural schools was used, one room designated primary, one as intermediate, and the grammar or unclassified higher school upstairs. Some of the early teachers in this school were Mrs. W. O. Donchoe and Miss Delia Tadlock, in the primary and Mrs. W. O. Donchoe, Joe Cozad, Mary Meade, andS. W. Miles in the intermediate room. The first superintendent, possibly called a principal, was Mr. McIntire, and some of the men who followed him in this capacity were: Warner, Miller, Vaughn, and Burgin.4

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1 Historical and Biographical Records of Wayne and Appanoose Counties.
Nellie Jordan in The Corydon Times Republican, September 28, 1939.

2 Mrs. D. W. Carlisle and Mrs. W. W. Mullinix, Lineville, Iowa. Personal interview, May, 1940.

3 Nellie Jordan--Corydon Times Republican, Sept. 28, 1940.

4 Ibid, and Mrs. W. O. Mullinix, Lineville, Iowa. Personal Interview, May, 1940.

The school was not fully graded for some years and the high school wad its beginnings in the teaching of some secondary subjects in the grammar department. When the school was more closely graded, a year of high school work was undertaken, then a second year was added, and sometime during the superintendency of W. H. Lancelot, or in the period from 1898 to 1903, the school was accredited as a four year high school.1 In the reports Lineville is listed as having only ten grades as late as 1900, but is recorded as having twelve grades in 1903.2

W. H. Lancelot later became an instructor at Iowa State College at Ames and still later served for some time as head of the Education Department in that institution.

During the last week of school on a Tuesday night in May, 1915, a fire was discovered in the building at about 10:30 o'clock in the evening. So intense were the flames that they could not be controlled, resulting in a complete loss of the building equipment and school records. When plans were made to build a new schoolhouse, it was not put on the same location, because it was too near the railroad track where the passing of the trains had always seriously disturbed the school. The site had been donated by an influential citizen or perhaps the first building would never have been placed there. The present school site was selected because it was without doubt the best available. The new building, which was erected at a cost of $22,500, was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies Friday, March 10, 1916. The same schoolhouse is still in use and houses both the high school and elementary grades.3 The first floor is occupied by the elementary school, and on the second floor are located the office, a small library and the high school classrooms.

As the school was in need of room for its athletic program, a new gynmasium was located behind the main building and quite near to it. A stage was built on the north side of the gymnasium which is used in dramatic productions of the school or for other events which necessitate a stage and auditorium.4

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1 Mrs. D. W. Carlisle, Personal interview, May, 1940.

2 Annual reports of the County Superintendent.

3 Mrs. Lylyn Duden, Mrs. D. W. Carlisle, Lineville, Iowa, Personal interview, May, 1940.

4 Edward Evans, teacher in Lineville, 1935-1937. Personal interview, Iowa City, June, 1940.
Mrs. D. W. Carlisle, Lineville, Iowa Personal letter, June, 1940.

The town does not have a water pressure system, but the school has a water system and a sewage disposal system of its own, makingit possible to have indoor toilets, and to have bathing facilities in the gymnasium dressing rooms.

In 1955 the town installed a city water system. This solved one of the schools most serious problems. A school well did not supply sufficient water for the plant. A pond had been built near the building, but this, too, was not entirely satisfactofy.1

The school is actively interested in athletics and has both b ys' and girls' basketball teams which have won their share of games in the county. No football is played, but the school does participate in tract. Although largely an agricultural community, no Smith-Hughes agriculture or vocational home making is taught.

In the fall of 1954 a football team was established and had made quite an outstanding record for a school of its size.2

Last year, 1938-1939, Lineville schools employed ten teachers. The enrollment was ninety-two in high school and eighty-two in elementary school. Forty-two, or nearly one-half, of the high school and eight of the elementary pupils came from outside the district, their tuition fees yielding the tidy sum of $3,516.00.

In the last two decades the population of Lineville has decreased also, this being most noticeable in the elementary school. The high school enrollment evidently has been bolstered up by the large number of tuition students.

Lineville's school levy for the year 1938-1939 was 43.63 mills, the highest in the county. The actual valuation of property in the district was $222,355. The bonded indebtedness was $9,000, less than one-tenth of the amount recorded for Corydon; and there were no interest bearing warrants outstanding.3

The assessed valuation of the Lineville district is now $235,645. The cost of operating the Lineville School is $63,986.00. Of this amount $42,957.00 is raised by tuition for non resident students. The local district levys a tax on its self in the amount of 65.480 mills.4

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1 Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

2 Ibid.

3 Annual reports of the County Superintendent, 1939.

4 Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

Table No. 17

ENROLLMENT IN THE LINEVILLE SCHOOLS[1]

Year	H. S.	Elementary	Total
1900-1901	---	---	209
1910-1911	---	---	175
1914-1915	---	---	211
1920-1921	80	163	243
1925-1926	109	127	236
1930-1931	94	124	218
1931-1932	83	136	219
1932-1933	82	109	191
1933-1934	75	113	198
1934-1935	91	110	201
1935-1936	111	118	229
1936-1937	94	104	198
1937-1938	83	88	171
1938-1939	90	87	177
1939-1940	92	82	174
1940-1941	89	94	183
1941-1942	75	77	152
1942-1943	56	85	141
1943-1944	43	81	124
1944-1945	45	71	116
1945-1946	48	72	120
1946-1947	68	107	175
1947-1948	67	147	214
1948-1949	69	166	235
1949-1950	68	145	213
1950-1951	69	152	221
1951-1952	85	179	264
1952-1953	83	172	255
1953-1954	92	181	273
1954-1955	77	195	272
1955-1956	78	186	264

[1] Data from the annual reports of the County Superintendent.

Some of the persons who have been at the head of the Lineville Schools are as follows:[1]

Name	Years	Salary
G. M. Des Islets	1882	$900
C. E. Foster	1886	600
F. E. King	1886-1890	600-680
L. Buchanan	1890-1892	600-680
J. W. Cradker	1892-1895	600
S. S. Tipton	1895-1898	800
W. H. Lancelot	1898-1903	800-1000
G. H. Hollen	1903-1905	675-720
W. H. Kalkopen	1905-1909	720-810
Clarence H. Hoxel	1909-1910	675
A. W. Bagley	1910-1911	675
Elmer F. Pleper	1911-1913	720-900
R. A. Mason	1913-1915	900
E. C. Kunkelberg	1915-1917	900-1000
Don C. Rogers	1917-1918	1100
Jesse L. Duboc	1918-1919 (1 sem.)	1500
K. R. Palmer	1918-1919(snd sem.)	1350
P. B. Bartlett	1919-1922	1600-2000
Jesse E. McCrory	1922-1924	1850
J. L. Rutherford	1924-1935	2000
John D. Craven	1935-1941	not listed
Howard Cassill	1941-1943	
Halley Ford	1943-1949	
R. J. McLean	1949-1951	
J ames Softley	1951-1953	
Byrl L. Gowin	1954-1955	
L. F. Snook	1955-	

Millerton

Millerton can rightfully claim that it is the newest town in the county, for it was not platted and recorded until December, 1912. The town came into being because of the building of the St. Paul and Kansas City short line of the Rock Island Railroad, and is located in the old West Union neighborhood in Union Township. When the railroad came through, it was thought a good idea to start a town to accommodate many people in that part of the county with a trading and shipping place. It grew quite rapidly until a population of over 200 was reached, but the more common use of the automobile and the motor truck has almost taken away its reason for existence. The bank has closed and many of the store buildings are either vacant or used only for other purposes. In spite of the apparent inactivity in business the people have not abandoned the town, because in the years 1920, 1930, and 1940, the population was 159, 162, and 163 respectively.

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[1] Iowa Educational Directories published by the State Dept.

The West Union Independent School District had its school located on the present site of Millerton before the town was built; but as the population of the village increased, it proved too small to accommodate all the children. Accordingly, the present schoolhouse was built in 1917-1918 at a cost of $5,200 plus about $300 for equipment. The old one room schoolhouse was sold to Lewis Ryan who moved it away and it is now standing in the southwest part of town and used as a barn.1

The present schoolhouse is a frame building with a manual training and a home economics room in the basement, three classrooms on the first floor, and an office and two classrooms on the second floor. There is no municipal water pressure system in the town so the school gets its water supply from a well in front of the main building. There is no plumbing, no indoor toilets, and no shower baths.

Since the above was written, the building has been equipped with running water and suitable toilet facilities.2

The high school began slowly, some instruction of a secondary character being given in the grammar grades. When about 1920 the board decided they wanted a high school, preparation was made to offer at least two years of work and to seek approval for tuition purposes from the state department. As is shown in table 18, there were seven pupils listed in high school in 1920-1921. The school was not approved for tuition purposes until the following year and then only for two years of high school work; however, in 1927 it was approved for three years and in 1928 for four.3

In order to have an adequate athletic program, a new gymnasium was built in 1934 with the aid of the W. P. A. funds and labor, and at a cost to the district of approximately $2900. The heat for the gymnasium is furnished by the furnace in the two story building, which stands closely adjacent to it. The gymnasium has a good sized playing floor and quite a large space for spectators on the east side bleachers, and on the stage built at the north end. The Millerton School has an athletic program for both boys and girls. The boys have a basketball and a baseball team, but no football team.4

The school has a full time music teacher and both vocal and instrumental music is taught. There is a glee club but no band or orchestra. Library facilities are poor, as Millerton has no town library and the school does not have many books, although a set of Dompton's and of Americana Enclyclopedia were added to the library for reference work during the past year.

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1 Ray Markly, Secretary of the School Board, Millerton, Iowa. Personal interview, May, 1940.

2 Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

3 Ray Markly, Secy. of the school board, Millerton, Iowa. Personal interview, May, 1940. Iowa Educational Directories.

4 Ibid.

Since the coming of Mr. Dorsey to the superintendency in 1938, algebra and geometry have been made elective instead of required. Agriculture and home economics are taught but not according to the Smith-Hughes regulation. Manual training is also taught. Some commercial subjects were given a place in the curriculum at one time but are not now offered.[1]

Five classroom teachers and a teaching superintendent were employed during the past year, with a total enrollment for 1938-1939 of seventy-six with thirty-nine in the elementary school and thirty-seven in the high school. Twenty-two, or over one-fourth of the total enrollment, were tuition pupils of whom eighteen were in high school making up nearly one-half of its enrollment. Millerton has a bonded indebtedness of $1,800 as reported in 1939, with interest bearing warrants outstanding amounting to $2,928.59. The tax was 20 mills with a total property valuation in the district of $226,722.[2]

According to data given in table No. 1, the population of Millerton shows very little change in the last two decades. The total enrollment in the school shows a similar trend. Table No. 18 will show that the total enrollment in the school was the same in 1930-1931 as in 1939-1940. Although the total enrollment has not decreased, the elementary school has less than two-thirds as many pupils as in 1930-1931; while the high school enrollment has increased nearly two and one-half times in the same period.[3]

The following men have been at the head of the Millerton Schools:[4]

Name		
John H. Darr	1916-1917	630
Harry P. Sheed	1917-1918	810
O. P. Magee	1918-1919	720
A. A. Thatcher	1919-1927	1000-1200
R. S. Reed	1927-1930	1665-1800
H. H. Vander Flute	1930-1932	1800
Lloyd Wineinger	1932-1938	not listed
F. C. Dorsey	1938-1942	
B. C. Barron	1942-1944	
Marie A. Elmore	1944-1946	
Edwin Richman	1946-1951	
Helen Louise Westcot	1951-1952	

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1 F. C. Dorsey, Superintendent of Schools, Millerton, Iowa. Personal interview, June, 1940.

2 Annual report of the County Superintendent, 1939.

3 Date from Iowa Education Directories.

4 Ibid.

Table No. 18

ENROLLMENT IN THE MILLERTON SCHOOLS[1]

Year	H.S.	Elementary	Total
1920-1921	7	57	64
1926-1927	25	50	75
1928-1929	64	44	108
1930-1931	15	61	76
1931-1932	35	70	105
1932-1933	30	57	87
1933-1934	31	53	84
1934-1935	40	43	83
1935-1936	39	64	103
1936-1937	42	47	89
1937-1938	40	62	102
1938-1939	33	38	71
1939-1940	37	39	76
1940-1941	43	51	93
1941-1942	36	51	87
1942-1943	28	48	76
1943-1944	15	45	60
1944-1945	18	45	63
1945-1946	14	54	68
1946-1947	23	62	85
1947-1948	19	62	81
1948-1949	23	62	85
1949-1950	19	58	77
1950-1951	16	55	71
1951-1952	17	55	72
1952-1953		49	49
1953-1954		37	37
1954-1955		35	35
1955-1956		29	29

In 1952 the people at Millerton decided to discontinue the high school and send their high school students to Corydon and Cambria.

At the present time, they have a small but very good elementary school. The board has taken a very active interest in the school. They are careful to keep it well equipped and well staffed.[2]

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[1] Annual reports of the County Superintendent.

[2] Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

Promise City

Promise City is an incorporated town located in South Fork Township on the paved highway, Iowa No. 2, and on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad. Because there was a group of farm houses there, the site of the village was known as Promise City as early as 1852. The village was platted and recorded in December of 1855, and after some time a store was built and a post office established. The town did not make much growth until the completion of the railroad in 1880.[1] Then a mild boom took place, for within a year or two, five stores, a restaurant, a hotel, a grain elevator, and a lumber yard are known to have been established. By 1895 the population had grown to 209. It reached a crest in 1910 when it stood at 274. Since then records show 267, 226, and 225 in 1920, 1930, and 1940 respectively.[2]

The first schoolhouse in the village, a single room rural school, stood where the depot now is. When the railroad came through, the building was moved to the present school site. At one time, according to Charlie Kinser who attended the school, there were approximately sixty boys and girls in attendance with only one teacher. One day thirty of the boys received a whipping for the same offense, that of throwing snow balls into the schoolhouse at the girls, during a brief absence of the teacher. The names of the early teachers are not remembered, it seems, and there are no records available to reveal who they were. The records were either lost or burned in one of the two fires that destroyed the school buildings. However, it is known that a Mr. Rucker was one of the early teachers.[3]

In 1882 because of the rapid growth of the town, already referred to, the schoolroom had become so crowded that it was necessary to do something about it. Therefore a new schoolhouse was erected that year at a cost of $1,700. The little one room schoolhouse was moved across the street and made into a residence.[4]

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1 Charlie Kinser, elderly resident, Promise City, Personal interview, May, 1940.
Historical and Biographical Record of Wayne and Appanoose Counties.
1939 Financial Report, Wayne County, Iowa.

2 Corydon Times Republican, September 28, 1939.
Iowa Census Reports (See Table 1,)

3 Charlie Kinser, G. W. Noble. Promise City, Iowa. Personal interview, May, 1940.

4 Ibid. Historical and Biographical Records of Wayne and Appanoose Counties.

In the new schoolhouse two teachers were employed, John W. Grame as principal, and Belle Holstein as assistant. In 1885 the enrollment was 130 and the school expenditures totaled about $1,000. The records of the year 1889-1890 show only 125 pupils and two instructors. C. A. Niday served as principal and Miss Belle Holstein still served as assistant. Their salaries were fifty and thirty-five dollars per month respectively.[1]

A small beginning was made in establishing a high school by offering some subjects in advance of the eighth grade. About 1900 a full year of high school was offered and another year was added in 1904. However, the eleventh grade was not organized until 1922-1923, and the twelfth grade was added the following year. The first class was graduated from the four year high school in the spring of 1924.[2]

The school building constructed in 1882 was destroyed by fire in 1900, and school was carried on in the church buildings to the end of the term.

The building was replaced and served the community well until 1930 when it too was destroyed by fire.[3]

Plans were made to rebuild, and at a special election held April 24, the same year, the voters of the independent district of Promise City voted for a bond issue of $20,000 to build and equip a school building and gymnasium. The proposal carried by a small majority of ninety-wight in favor and eighty-two opposed. On August 4, 1930, the cornerstone was laid, and in due time the building was completed. Staley and Son of Centerville were the contractors.[4]

The school building is of rather unusual plan and design because the rooms are all of the semi-basement type, and the gymnasium is in the center with the classrooms on either side. In the building are two classrooms for the elementary grades, an assembly room, an office, a home economics room, a manual training room, and a high school classroom. The gymnasium has a stage at one end which facilitates dramatic production in the school.

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1 Historical and Biographical Record of Wayne and Appanoose Counties.
C. A. Niday in the Corydon Times Republican, Oct. 19, 1940.

2 Olla Baughman, Promise City, Iowa. Personal interview, May, 1940.
Annual reports of the County Superintendent.

3 Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

4 Corydon Times Republican, Corydon, Iowa, May 1, 1930, August 6, 1930.

Promise City now has a four year approved high school, with an enrollment in 1938-1939 of thirty-six, and of this number twenty-nine or over three-fourths, were tuition students from outside the district. The elementary grades had an enrollment of thirty, with five of this number being tuition pupils. Thirty-four out of sixty-six pupils enrolled, came from outside the district. The enrollment has dropped enough in the last few years so that next year the school will get along with one less teacher--five instead of six. The reason for the decrease in enrollment is mainly due to the fact that most of citizens of the town are older people whose children are through school and have left the community to seek their fortunes elsewhere.1

Table No. 19
ENROLLMENT IN PROMISE CITY SCHOOLS2

Year	H.S.	Elementary	Total
1900-1901	--	--	75
1910-1911	--	--	104
1920-1921	29	77	106
1925-1926	60	52	112
1930-1931	46	36	82
1931-1932	47	30	77
1932-1933	48	33	81
1933-1934	48	40	88
1934-1935	46	49	95
1935-1936	29	64	93
1936-1937	50	46	96
1937-1938	56	46	102
1938-1939	42	30	72
1939-1940	30	36	66
1940-1941	42	29	71
1941-1942	42	33	75
1942-1943	44	36	80
1943-1944	42	36	78
1944-1945	43	39	82
1945-1956	38	41	79
1946-1947	41	44	85
1947-1938	36	38	74
1948-1949	35	66	101
1949-1950	31	74	105
1950-1951	21	66	87
1951-1952	--	66	66
1952-1953	--	63	63
1953-1954	--	77	77
1954-1955	--	81	81
1955-1956	--	78	78

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1 Olla Baughman, Promise City, Iowa, Personal interview, May, 1940.
Annual Report of the County Superintendent, 1939.

2 Annual Report of the County Superintendent.

Population of Promise City in 1920, 1930, and 1940 was 276, 224, and 225, respectively, which shows that the population has not decreased in the last decade. The total enrollment in the schools, as the preceding table has shown, has dropped during this period, but the greater decrease is in the high school. Moreover, the elementary enrollment is less than half of what it was in 1920-1921.

The amount of money received by the district for tuition in 1939 was $2,656.25. The amount of bonded indebtedness was $14,000 and interest bearing warrants amounted to $2,928.59, The total tax levy was 25.77 mills with a total property valuation of $203,738.[1]

The following persons have been at the head of the Promise City Schools:

Name		
J. W. Frame	1886	$350
W. M. Frame	1886-1889	$400-$300
C. A. Niday	1889-1890	$400
R. A. Ratcliffe	1890-1891	$334
J. O. Cozad	1891-1894	$480
J. K. Green	1894-1895	$400
W. T. Ratcliffe	1895-1896	$480
J. S. Stamp	1896-1899	$440
J. W. Agans	1899-1902	not listed
J. S. Ulm	1902-1906	$560
W. R. Reed	1906-1908	$560
H. W. Bollman	1908-1909	$520
Leonard S. Ward	1909-1910	$680
James Bedwell	1910-1911	$630
B. G. Tye	1911-1913	$765
W. T. Pickenpaugh	1913-1915	$900-$1000
B. G. Tye	1915-1917	$900
J. Oscar Johnson	1917-1918	$900
Forest P. Hagan	1918-1919	$1125
J. B. Tye	1919-1920	$1575
Forest P. Hagan	1920-1921	$1800
R. F. Rominger	1921-1922	$1620-$1800
A. R. Metier	1922-1925	not listed
Marshall F. Cheever	1925-1926	
R. S. Reed	1926-1927	
Oliver Irelan	1927-1930	
C. L. Johnson	1930-1934	
J. E. Wintz	1934-1936	
Willis Fogle	1936-1937	
W. E. Young	1937-1938	
H. M. Patterson	1938-1940	
Glenn P. Duncan	1940-1942	
B. G. Tye	1942-1943	
Eldon R. Shriver	1943-1945	
M. H. Dake	1945-1949	
Chester L. McKim	1949-1950	
George C. Humphrey	1950-1951	

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[1] Annual report of the County Superintendent.

[2] Iowa Educational Directories.

In the spring of 1951 the board voted to discontinue the high school because of the increasing cost and decreasing number of students which made it ever more difficult to provide a good educational program at a cost which the tax payers could afford.

An elementary school with four teachers is still maintained. The board has been very careful to keep the plant in good condition and well equipped. New modern seats have been added, the lighting has been improved, and a very adequate school lunch program has been added.[1]

Seymour

Seymour, like Allerton, had its birth when the railroad was built through Wayne County in 1870. The town was platted and recorded in June, 1871, and the post office and bank were established the same year.[2]

A coal mine, the first in the county, was opened in 1883, and a second railroad, the Milwaukee, came through in 1886.[3] The population increased rather rapidly, reaching 710 by the year 1885, and 2290 by 1910 when the crest was reached and the following years saw a downward trend as was shown in Table No. 1.

For a short time the children attended the rural district school which stood very near the town; but as early as April 2, 1872, the Seymour Independent School District was formed and the same year a contract was made with Nelson Rogers to build a two story frame schoolhouse at a cost to the district of $1,950. The old rural school building, then within the independent district, was sold to Wm. Wade for $62.00. The new building was occupied by the school on January 13, 1873. A census taken at that time showed the number of children of school age in the newly formed district to be eighty-nine.[4]

The schoolhouse served the different church denominations until they could build houses of worship. The Presbyterian and Christian Church buildings were erected in 1874, and the Baptists built in 1880.[5]

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1 Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

2 Biographical and Historical Record of Wayne and Appanoose Counties. 1439.
Financial Report, Wayne County, Iowa.

3 Mrs. Ruth Wilson in the Corydon Times Republican, September 28, 1939, and Iowa Census Report.

4 Ibid. and Sanford M. Kirkland, Personal interview, May, 1940.

5 Mrs. Ruth Wilson in the Times Republican, Sept. 28, 1939.

The number of pupils increased so rapidly that the frame building erected in 1872 was soon after enlarged by the addition of a wing, making it a four room school with as many teachers.[1]

The high school was organized in 1890, first offering one year of work and gradually making provisions for additional courses until in 1898, Seymour had a four year high school. Because of the development of the high school, and the rapid increase of enrollment, due to the growth of the town, the frame schoolhouse built in 1872 was replaced by a substantial brick structure in 1890 at a cost of approximately $20,000. But at the turn of the century buildings were again inadequate and in 1902 a new four room building was constructed in the west part of town for the elementary school. Six years later this building was enlarged and then began to be used by the high school, the elementary grades occupying the building built in 1890. Because of the rapid increase in the population and in the enrollment, the elementary school was presently in need of still larger quarters, and in 1916 the present building, which now houses both the elementary grades and the high school, was built at a cost of $40,000.

Seymour Schools for many years past have been interested in sports. As early as 1905-1906 a football team was started by the principal, John Stamps, and the same year saw the beginning of a track team.[2] When Mr. Jarman became superintendent in 1931, there was no basketball team, but when the high school abandoned its building and moved in with the elementary school, the old structure was remodeled in such a way that it could be used as a basketball court. Both a boys' and girls' team were started, and today Seymour is noted for its girls' teams which rarely suffer defeat. In 1935, the old high school building was torn down and the material used to construct a modern gymnasium adjacent to the main building and connected with it by a spacious reception hall and an adjoining band room. The gymnasium was the first project in the state finished under W. P. A. It is eighty-two by 104 feet, with a seating capacity for approximately 1000 people. There is a stage on one side which is used in dramatic production, and under it are the dressing rooms equipped with shower and lockers. The total cost of the gymnasium was approximately $35,000. An adequate playing field has been acquired adjacent to the gymnasium, and at present the field is in the process of being equipped with electric flood lights for night games. Concrete bleachers are being constructed to seat spectators. This improvement is part of the W. P. A. project.[3]

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[1] History of Wayne and Appanoose Counties, pp. 549.

[2] John S. Stamps, Seymour, Iowa. Personal interview, May, 1940.

[3] P. H. Jarman, Personal interview, May, 1940.

The school has a full time music teacher and both vocal and instrumental music are taught. A band was organized in 1934, and Seymour's marching band often parades at athletic contests. The high school has a student council elected by the student body, which looks after the intermural athletic events and occasional assembly programs, which it supervises. For the past two years the school has had a lyceum course sent out by the National Service, and has taken part in the county-wide visual education program.[1]

There have been courses in both home economics and manual training for several years. Agriculture is offered, but not under the Smith-Hughes regulations. Superintendent Jarman realizes the need of vocational subjects and is attempting to make it possible for Seymour to offer both home economics and agriculture on Smith-Hughes level within a year or two. The school is one of the few in the county to have free text books for its pupils, a policy begun in the year 1937.[2]

The enrollment for 1938-1939 was 203 in high school and 200 in the elementary grades, seventy-one tuition pupils constituting over one-third of the enrollment in the high school. The total amount of tuition received was $6,058.

Seymour had, at first, the problem of enlarging its school facilities to keep pace with its rapid increase in population. The town grew rapidly up to 1910 when it had 2290 population; no other town in the county has ever been so large. In the following ten years, with the closing of the mine, came a slump. The enrollment of the school naturally showed a positive correlation with the population trend. However, in the last ten years, although the enrollment in the elementary school has dropped ninety-eight, the high school has made a gain of sixty-one, part of this due to an increase in tuition students from outside the district.

In June, 1939, the tax levy for school purposes was 34.88 mills and the total valuation of property in the district was listed at $473,742. The total bonded indebtedness was $1,000. In one way the Seymour Schools have had some help in their problems of fluctuation populations and enrollments. They have received mining school aid from the state, such aid last year amounting to $2,500.[4]

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[1] P. H. Jarman, Personal interview, May, 1940.

[2] Ibid.

[3] Annual report of the County Superintendent.

[4] Ibid., 1939

Table No. 20

ENROLLMENT IN THE SEYMOUR SCHOOLS[1]

Year	H. S.	Elementary	Total
1900-1901	---	---	467
1910-1911	127	477	604
1920-1921	159	336	495
1925-1926	147	300	447
1930-1931	138	298	436
1931-1932	149	286	435
1932-1933	150	282	432
1933-1934	165	275	430
1934-1935	169	275	444
1935-1936	160	270	430
1936-1937	171	240	431
1938-1939	192	218	410
1939-1940	203	200	403
1940-1941	208	222	430
1941-1942	191	224	415
1942-1943	171	182	353
1943-1944	142	165	307
1944-1945	133	170	303
1945-1946	128	176	304
1946-1947	159	194	353
1947-1948	173	190	363
1938-1949	168	198	366
1949-1950	169	221	390
1950-1951	161	249	410
1951-1952	142	278	420
1952-1953	163	277	440
1953-1954	172	318	490
1954-1955	169	320	489
1955-1956	191	330	521

Recent years have seen many fine improvements in the Seymour Schools. In 1955 a new addition to the building was completed. It is a very beautiful and modern structure. Seymour, for many years, has been fortunate enough to have very capable administrators who have done much to keep their school up to date.

The vocational subjects mentioned earlier have been added along with an increased music program and increased art program.

The assessed valuation at present is $639,496. The board levies a tax of 52.692 to support the school.

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[1] Annual reports of the County Superintendent.

[2] Gerald Dunsmore, County Superintendent, August, 1956.

The following people have been at the head of the Seymour Schools:[1]

Name	Years	Salary
J. H. Ware	1883-4	$600
F. E. King	1886	600
J. W. Frame	1886-1888	420
C. C. Hodges	1888-1889	420
W. Wagner	1889-1890	420
J. A. Cozad	1890-1892	420
S. L. Hill	1892-1894	490-600
J. F. Wagner	1894-1896	480
T. B. Taylor	1896-1899	640-800
W. B. Thornburgh	1899-1902	800-900
A. P. Speers	1902-1904	640-810
J. R. Cougill	1904-1912	760-1350
H. F. Volkmann	1912-1913	1350
W. W. Pratt	1913-1915	1350-1500
D. B. Heller	1915-1917	1700
T. M. Phillips	1917-1918	1800-2000
J. W. Miller	1918-1921	2600
Jay J. Sherman	1921-1922	2400-2560
R. W. Newell	1922-1929	
A. J. Rohrbaugh	1929-1937	
P. H. Jarman	1937-1945	
D. A. Faris	1945-1947	
Earl O. Berge	1947-	

Summary

Many of the newly founded towns first sent their children to the nearby rural district schools which had already been established. Several of the first schools in the towns were private subscription schools. As population increased the towns formed independent districts, built their own schoolhouses, and accepted the responsibility for the education of the pupils within the prescribed area of their districts.

Most of the high schools had their beginnings with a few subjects taught beyond the eighth grade. Later they were graded, and more work was added until all of them at present offer four years courses. Corydon established the first graded high school in 1870 and Millerton was the last to advance to four years of high school in 1928.

Most of the schools show an increase and a decrease in enrollment that correlates positively with the fluctuation in the population of the towns. However, the high schools have not suffered the falling off in enrollment that the elementary schools, have, which is evidently due to the increase of the number of pupils from the rural districts.

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[1] Iowa Educational Directories published by the State Department of Public Instruction.

Tenure of the superintendents, especially in the smaller towns, has been very short; this naturally has not been conducive to well planned educational programs over a period of years, because most of the men moved on before they had become well acquainted with the needs of the community they served.

The history of building programs is one of a long process of educating the public to its own needs, except in cases in which schoolhouses were destroyed by fire. In the voting of bonds in order to erect new buildings, the vote of the women in more than one case was the deciding factor.

Chapter V

THE ACADEMIES OR NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF SECONDARY NATURE

There were at different times two academies in the county which flourished for a season, did their work, and disappeared as high schools developed. There is but meager information available concerning these institutions, but several people still living in the county attest to their place in the development of education in this region.

The Academy at Seymour

In 1879, then years before the establishment of the academy at Humeston, and the same year that Corydon established a high school, plans were made by three young men, "Lannie" Clemens, Jabez Ruby, and Warren Kent, to establish and conduct an academy in Seymour. At this time the first public school at Seymour had been established only seven years, and the high school was not begun until a decade later. The young men lamented the fact that there was no further formal education for them unless they went out of town to attend school, and that took funds which they evidently did not possess. So while sitting on the sidewalk one day, they made their decision to start an academy. To help them in their plans the young men invited two able young women, Josie Wade and Lola Atkinson, later Mrs. W. S. Merrit, to serve with them on a board of directors of which Jabez Ruby was president; Josie Wade, vice president; and "Lannie" Clemens, secretary.

After considerable correspondence, they engaged as an instructor, a Reverend Carr, who consented to assume all financial responsibility for the institution. The following fall, school began with an enrollment of about seventy pupils and two instructors, the Reverend Carr as principal and Mrs. Sawyer as his assistant. Classes were first conducted in the Christian Church building, which had been partitioned off into rooms, and the next year in the more spacious Masonic building, which stood in the northeast corner of the block now occupied by the park. The course of study resembled that of the present high school.

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1 Mrs. Ruth Wilson in the Corydon Times Republican, Sept. 28, 1939. Reverend A. E. Clemens, Trenton, Mo. Personal letter, June 22, 1940.

Chief among the activities of the new academy were the literary society and the debating team. The school paper, "The Star of The Academy," was written in long hand, and Amy Loomis, the present Mrs. D. H. Kirby, was the editor for some time.[1]

The institution was, of course, co-educational, and two friendships beginning here and resulting in marriage were those of D. H. Kirby and Amy Loomis, and of "Lannie" Clemens, later known as the Reverend A. E. Clemens, and Eva Wyckoff.[2]

The life of the institution was short, for at the end of three years there were no funds to continue. In a personal letter to the writer, the Reverend A. E. Clemens makes the following statement concerning the demise of the academy:

> "The tuition was low and not enough money was received to pay the teachers a good living salary-- so the school or academy had to close. The business men of Seymour were too blind to see the advantage of such a school and gave it little support. I believe if they had gotten behind Carr and Sawyers, the school would have lasted many years, as it did in Bloomfield where an academy was conducted for years."[3]

The Academy at Humeston

The second independent school of secondary nature had a slightly longer life and a much more pretentious name, The Humeston Normal College and Commercial Institute. The man largely responsible for this institution was E. J. Gantz, who came to the Humeston community in 1883, bought a farm and began operating it. Realizing that the public schools at that time were not equipped to train people for business or professional careers, he divised a plan to form an institution to provide such training.

The writer was unable to secure information concerning the educational background of Mr. Gantz, but the 1880's and 90's were the period of hastily organized, short lived normal schools, colleges, and so called universities, many of them children of the famous and very profitable school at Valparaiso, Indiana. Many small imitations of that school were organized in Iowa, of which this may have been one. At any rate, Mr. Gantz completed his plans, and in the year 1888 took into his confidence some of the citizens of Humeston, among whom were J. D. Haebrouck, Sr., J. S. Smith, and S. P. Newcomb.

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[1] Mrs. D. H. Kirby, Seymour, Iowa. Personal interview, May, 1940.

[2] Mrs. Ruth Wilson, Corydon Times Republican, Sept. 28, 1939.

[3] Reverend A. E. Clemens, Trenton, Mo., Personal letter, June 22,1940

An attempt to make the proposed school a community project was quite successful, and $1,500 was raised for its support during the first year. A large building owned by Robert Middlebrook was leased and equipped, and the school opened November 6, 1888. The students enrolled in such a large numbers that before the end of the first year the building was inadequate to care for them. The "Humeston College Association", consisting of fifteen members, was therefore formed to help Mr. Gantz with his enterprise.[1]

Plans were made to erect a permanent building to house the institution, and after some deliberation, Mardis and Brown were awarded the contract to build it. In June of 1889, the cornerstone was laid with impressive ceremonies, attended by delegations from several surrounding towns. The two story frame building was completed not long thereafter.[2]

The school itself, according to Doctor B. S. Walker of Corydon, who attended the institution, was about at the educational level of the average high school of the present and differed mostly from the public secondary schools of its day in that it offered practical subjects as well as the cultural.[3]

One may perhaps gain some idea of what the institution was like by the claims made for itself through the medium of newspaper advertisements like the following which appeared in the Wayne County Democrat.

HUMESTON NORMAL COLLEGE AND COMMERCIAL INSTITUTE

Thorough Practical Progressive Economical

"Ten departments in charge of ten well qualified instructors. Students can enter any time. Commodious buildings. Extensive library, latest works of reference. Latest improved maps, charts, and instruments. Good home board, well-furnished room and tuition at a low rate of $27 for ten weeks; forty weeks only $100 in advance. The best musical department in the west. Fine arts Department. Complete instruction in short-hand, typewriting, bookkeeping, telegraphy, and all English and classical studies. All worthy graduates aided in securing positions. Many graduates now earning from $40 to $100 per month. While this college is not the largest in the Southern part of Iowa, we claim that it is the best. Board only $1.20 per week and satisfaction guaranteed. Write for catalogue to W. W. Henderson, President, Humeston, Iowa."[4]

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1 Mrs. W. E. Berkey, Corydon Times Republican, Sept. 28, 1939.

2 Ibid.

3 Dr. B. S. Walker, Corydon, Ia. Personal interview, May, 1940.

4 Wayne County Democrat, Corydon, Ia. May 12, 1892.

Possibly the advantages of the school may be somewhat overstated in this announcement. For example, the writer of it states that "many graduates are now earning from $40 to $100 per month." The bale below shows that up to and including the year 1892 when this article was published there had been but eleven graduates.

From the advertisement just quoted it appears that the institution maintained a dormitory and a boarding department. Further evidence of this is given in the following excerpt from The Humeston New Era of January 16, 1889.

> "Good board and room will be furnished in the college building at $2.00 per week. Rooms furnished for two students at $1.00 per week. Students will bring their own comforts, pillows, sheets, and towels."

Although it is unknown how well the institution fulfilled its claims, it had quite a remarkable growth as the accompanying table will show.

Table No. 21

SHOWING GROWTH AND DECLINE OF THE HUMESTON NORMAL UNIVERSITY AND COMMERCIAL INSTITUTE[1]

Head of Institution	Year	Teachers	Students	Graduates
Prof. E. J. Gantz	1889	9	130	0
	1890	12	150	0
	1891	13	200	5
Prof. W. A. Henderson	1892	12	230	6
	1893	12	350	7
Prof. F. P. Haskett	1894	10	358	9
	1895	6	200	3
	1896	5	120	6
	1897	5	50	5
	1898	4	40	none listed

As the reports show, the school had the largest number of pupils in 1894, but the number of teachers was greatest in 1891 and then declined until in the last year of the institution's existence there were only four teachers employed. After reaching the highest enrollment, the school suffered a tremendous loss the following year, going down to 200; the next year showed a loss of eighty; and in the last two years the enrollment was only fifty and forty respectively. With so small an enrollment, and with recently established public high schools offering strong competition, especially in the cultural subjects, it was decided that the institution should be discontinued. The building remained until about 1905, when it was destroyed by fire.

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[1] Annual reports of the County Superintendent.

Summary

The academies were flourishing institutions for a short time and then had their demise. The stimulated greater interest in learning beyond the common schools, and the one at Humeston gave impetous to more practical training in the high schools as they developed.